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THE  
PARLIAMENTARY AND FORENSIC  
**SHORT-HAND-WRITER;**

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**140 WORDS AND UPWARDS A MINUTE**

ON ANY SUBJECT CAN BE WRITTEN AND READ;

FOR THE USE OF

GENTLEMEN ENGAGED IN SENATORIAL, PROFESSIONAL, AND PHILOSOPHICAL  
PURSUITS, &c. &c.

BY

I. NELSON, A. B.

THERE IS APPENDED A COPIOUS AND INTELLIGIBLE LIST OF  
THE CONTRACTIONS PECULIAR TO THE HOUSES OF  
PARLIAMENT AND TO THE COURTS OF LAW.

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*Hot-Pressed, bound in Cloth, with Law-Students' Appendix, 7s. 6d.*

1836.

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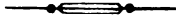
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## INTRODUCTION.



THE numerous recent publications on Stenography—some, the productions of experienced men whose interests make them chary of its diffusion, and whose treatises too general for practical purposes, leave the Art in its alphabet;—others, the abortive creations of speculative theorists, mark the full-grown importance of Short-hand as a scion of National Education. Although generously rewarding the *few* whose industry has nurtured it to maturity, and introduced as it has been into the Senate, where the debates are recorded verbatim—into the Courts of Law, where the decisions of Judges and the arguments of Counsel are taken with literal accuracy—and, finally, into the various Metropolitan Lecture-rooms of Philosophical and Medical Science; yet, to Literature Stenography is a Stranger.

This little Volume, the result of the unceasing practice of fifteen years, presumes to unite those hitherto irreconcilable essentials,—LEGIBILITY and RAPIDITY. The efficiency of his system the Author has tested amidst the varied opportunities which a Collegiate Education and considerable experience in the Senate, at the Bar, and in public Assemblies have placed within his power.

The Appendix of the Contractions peculiar to the Houses of Parliament and to the Courts of Law, it is hoped, will be useful to the reader, as it has been attended with a considerable expenditure of time and trouble to the Author.

••• Should any difficulties occur to the reader, the Author will cheerfully remove them, on a personal application made to him for that purpose.

*The Author receives a limited number of Pupils on the terms that he shall receive a fixed sum when the Student can write and read on any subject 140 words and upwards a minute, or can report a Public Speaker with facility.*

London, 1st January, 1836.

TO

MASTER FREDERICK O \* \*,

STRATFORD.

*On the Utility of Short-hand.*

MY DEAR FREDERICK,

When I had determined on publishing my Treatise on Brachygraphy, or Shorthand, in a series of letters, I did not, and I do not, know any one to whom I can so cheerfully address them as I can to you. The day is approaching, when you will, I hope, know and feel the advantages of Shorthand, and its application, or rather its applicability to every species of learning. When your education at home is concluded, and when you enter into the large school of an University, you will find the utility of this inestimable accomplishment. You will then, I trust, be able to take down *verbatim*, that is, a word in writing for each word uttered in speaking, the lectures of your College Professors. This will give you a decided advantage over all your Class-fellows, who may be ignorant of this art. In assiduity and in attention, you will, I am convinced, stand on equal terms with the best of you Collegiate competitors. Your memory will be as tenacious as their memories, of retaining the instruction you acquire by lecture and by reading. Shorthand, therefore, will give you an exclusive advantage, and will enable you to preserve with certainty, and without diminution, the information you derive from the Professor's superior knowledge and experience: besides, it gives a habit of fixed attention, which is rarely found with young men, particularly when congregated in classes. Like Science, it fixes the mind to the particular object of its direction, and does not permit it to wander even for a moment with impunity. A Professional friend, to whom I have read these letters, informs me that the lectures he noted in long characters are now, long after he has attained to his profession, and is engaged in extensive practice, the most vivid in his recollection. These notes he has shown to me. What, then, must the advantage be, when not only the substance, but the identical expressions of the Lecturer are preserved? As soon as

the course of lectures is concluded, your competitors can rely on memory alone, which is a very precarious dependance, and is subject to innumerable mishaps. Amusement, relaxation of study, sickness, and a thousand casualties are eternally exercising an attritious influence on our first impressions. By Short-hand your memory will be invigorated and refreshed;—by Short-hand your lecture and Lecturer will be always before you. When you have concluded your Collegiate studies, and have ceased to wander through the flowery fields of Roman and of Grecian literature,—when you have collected all that is eminently great in the history of the past, and have traversed by silent but irresistible ascent, the Alpine heights of Science, and beheld the wondrous mysteries which she is eternally unfolding to the enquiring mind:—and when you concentrate those bright and varied lights, and direct them to a profession, you will then find Short-hand of still greater importance. Its utility will be eminently conspicuous when you attend the lectures of the Professors of the Common and of the Civil law, and imbibe the theories of English and of Roman jurisprudence; when you attend the Courts where these principles are put in practice, and take in Short-hand the arguments of Counsel and the decisions of Judges, you will say that Short-hand has rendered you a service, that no effort of memory or of mind independant of Short-hand, could achieve for you. You will have Professor, Counsel, and Judge mirrored before you. Were I to refer to the pecuniary and subordinate benefits likely to arise from the knowledge of this inestimable art, I would exhaust my pen and your patience. The taking of the judgment of the Court may render your Client an essential service, and must render to yourself a permanent good.

Words are the signs of Ideas, whether expressed by the tongue or by the fingers. By Stenography, how many of the treasures of Literature can be preserved! without it how many have been lost! Short-hand must eventually supersede the present system of writing, and become general as Language herself. It is the only means by which we can preserve those scintillations of Elocutionary genius that flash at the impulse of inspiration.

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## LETTER II.

London, 12th January, 1836.

*Practicability of acquiring a thorough knowledge of Short-hand.*

MY DEAR FREDERICK,

These advantages will determine you to learn Short-hand. I trust you see the *utility* of being thoroughly master of this important acquisition. Now, as to the *practicability*. Thousands deny the possibility of acquiring such knowledge. You, my little Fred. will believe me when I assure you that such knowledge can be acquired by moderate attention. Many would deny that you, a child hardly three years old, have often stood upon my hand and lisped the geography of the globe in language which no Antiquary could decipher; in language unintelligible to any one, save to us and to a few others: that you, the delightful companion of the happiest days of my existence have huzzaed at the geographical ignorance of Clergymen, Barristers and Doctors, any of whom was old enough to be your Grandfather, and that these venerable and respectable people pronounced you to be not only the best Geographer of your age, but the best of their acquaintance. That you, my dear little Fred., have been this, and have been more than this, many would deny; yet, we and others well know such to be the fact. Short-hand I pledge myself to you, then, can be successfully acquired. I know that it is impracticable to accompany a Public Speaker by any of the published systems which have come under my observation. The treatises on the subject are crude and undigested, and labour under one of two prominent defects viz: - a deficiency of the requisite rapidity, or of intelligibility, without the immediate assistance of the memory. The Authors of these treatises have been persons who were the creatures of Theory; or, practised persons who have not communicated all the requisite knowledge which it was in their power to convey. They were content to give little more than the elements, and have left the art in its alphabet. It is an accredited fact, that a celebrated Practitioner has one system for his own use, and has published a different system for the benefit of the public.

The system I offer presumes to unite RAPIDITY with perfect LEGIBILITY. I have proved this system; others also have proved it, and pronounced their approbation. I have had pupils on the terms that I should be paid a fixed sum when these pupils could follow a public Speaker with facility. They have followed the Speaker successfully,

and I have received the stipulated remuneration. The documents to prove this are in my possession, and my pupils are living, and some of them are at the Bar. I am willing to engage on the same terms with any person who has the use of his fingers, and who will give me his time and attention. You must write Short-hand then, and accompany a public Speaker, and read his own language to him if he will but listen. The first requisites then are **LABOUR, TIME, and ATTENTION**, which will achieve almost any thing, and, without which, aught that is worth acquiring cannot be obtained. This maxim is applicable to every art. In Short-hand, all the natural or acquired endowments of the mind are subsidiary to practice. Now, as to the **TIME**: give me one hour each day for two months at least, and for three months at most: take to yourself two hours each day besides, to perform the exercises that I shall appoint, and I pledge myself for your success. At the end of this time you will be able to write from one hundred and forty to one hundred and sixty words in a minute, which will enable you to accompany even a rapid Speaker. This I will prove to *you*, my little Fred., for the real pleasure I will receive by instructing you—to *others*, for the pecuniary profit I shall derive. Let any person secure me a fixed sum, to be paid to me when he can write from two thousand eight hundred to three thousand two hundred words in twenty minutes from a book which he has never before read, and I will close the agreement with him; one hour each day to me, two hours each day to himself to perform the prescribed exercises.

These conditions are requisite in order to disabuse the public mind of a prejudice against this excellent accomplishment—a prejudice which has been generated by the spurious professions of unpractised performers who insult the Public by their impudent announcements of teaching Short-hand in *six easy* lessons. There is but one effectual mode of silencing these people. Let the Student who wishes to acquire a real knowledge of Short-hand, first secure to the Professor his stipend, and then ask the Professor to secure to the Student the required knowledge. Let the money and the knowledge be tried and found genuine. Get the scales for the guinea and the book for the Professor. Let the Student read and the Professor write and transcribe or translate immediately. I allude, of course, to those who attempt to impose upon the common sense of mankind by professing to teach Short-hand in *six easy* lessons. There are Gentlemen in the Empire who profess to teach it, and who teach it successfully, whose professional characters are above my praise or my censure; these are they who will not and cannot presume to teach Short-hand on the *easy* or *lazy* system. Such miracles they leave to

the Jugglers already mentioned—to men who have never written the language of a Speaker from his lips—to men who are at best but mere theorists—who know nothing of practice, and cannot therefore, teach that which is intrinsically practice.

In every profession, there are many who know much and can communicate little. It is said that the difficulty of communication is even increased, in proportion to the quantity of learning with which the head is lumbered. The converse of the proposition remains still to be proved and is a paradox not yet resolved; viz:—that a man who knows little can communicate a great deal. Thus it is with those *six easy lesson gentry*. Many of them know nothing of practice; and yet, they presume to teach that which is essentially practice. Will “*six easy lessons*” teach dancing or fencing? Will six *easy lessons* teach a tongue to speak? Is the tongue less flexible than the fingers? Yet the fingers are to learn a new language in a few hours!! Out upon the Impostors. Stand forth, you thousands who are daily gulled by those Quacks, and say, how many of you are *Short-hand* writers. Sixteen years ago, I was myself bubbled by the unblushing announcement of one of those itinerant wonder-workers, who placarded himself as the Teacher of the Crowned heads of Christendom. I believe he had the modesty to assert, that he taught the Grand Seignior with unparalleled success. I paid my guinea in advance, (an universal *sine qua non*), and after the *eight easy lessons*, I was told to practise what he taught me, and that I could then follow any Speaker, as it is technically called!

General principles are not easily made subservient to Art. Short-hand requires an acquaintance with the particular object to which it is applied. A Short-hand writer, unacquainted with Medical terms, would find it almost impossible to transcribe his notes of the lecture of a Medical Professor, though every syllable uttered by the Professor should be noted. The orthoepy being of Greek extraction, would present an insurmountable barrier to a transcriber. A person conversant with this art, would require some knowledge of legal learning, before he could transcribe the language of a Counsel or of a Judge, the genealogy of whose diction may be traced to the nations of the earth, present and past. In a close law-argument, the language of the Bar is as unintelligible as the language of birds, to an ordinary hearer. Among the various classes of men, whether grouped in trades or in professions, there are peculiar technical terms, which are unintelligible save to those who are connected with that individual class.

## LETTER III.

London, 16th January 1836.

*Business.*

MY DEAR FRED.,

You must procure a ream of large post paper, with a hard polished surface. Get this ruled in narrow blue lines, each of which should be equally distant from the other, as are the horizontal lines in the plates of this book. Let the ruling extend along the length of the paper, not in the direction that the lines of printing are in the book before you; but, in the contrary direction, along the margin. Get a quire of this ruled paper, cut into three equal parts, as if you cut this book into three equal parts, and had them bound as the book before you, but, of course, of one third the size. The paper on which you write should be narrow, so as to require the least motion of the wrist; the longer the books are the more convenient, as they do not then require frequent turning over. Procure good black ink, without oil or gum, and which will flow freely from the pen. Let your pens, of which you should have a number in a leathern case, be finely pointed, with a slight incision, and also light. Metallic pens I find very inconvenient; they require great care, penetrate the paper, and are not so tenable as I wish them. Some metallic pens, from their peculiar long nibbed shape, I found utterly useless. The best Short-hand writers use the hard quill pen. Metal handles to pens are to be avoided. Pencils are too heavy, require an impression on the paper, create delay, and fatigue the fingers. Your pens must be made so as not to cause a sprinkling of the ink. Plant your wrist on the paper, and let the pen and paper form an angle, approaching as nearly as possible to a right angle. The pen must be free, and not pressed too much by the fingers. Arch your thumb, extend the little finger, and hold your pen rather short. Then describe the following characters. See plate 1, figure 1. Write these characters with great care on the centre of the interval between two of the lines on your paper; be cautious to write them on the centre. For greater security, bisect by a straight red line one of the intervals on your ruled paper. Your right line characters, *d, f, v, r, t*, will pass through, and will be bisected by, this red *central line*. Your curved characters, *k, q, n, w*, will pass through the red *central line*, having their arches, and the extremity of those arches, at different sides of this *central line*. Your looped characters, *b, h, p*; and your thick-headed character,



*th*, have the loops and the head above, and merely above, but their extremities below, this red *central line*. The loop of the character expressing *l* is below, and its termination above, the red *central line*. The character representing *y* springs from, the characters representing *g* and *ch* are bisected by, and the characters indicative of *m*, *s*, *soft c*, *x*, *sh*, *ious*, lie along the surface of, this red *central line*. The letter *r* commences from the red *central line*, and proceeds upwards, towards and not to, the upper blue, in a direction from left to right. The line which is now denominated the red *central line*, will henceforward be denominated the *ideal central line*. See plate 1, figure 2. If the Student omit or neglect this letter, and the accuracy which forms its subject-matter, he may bid adieu to his ever becoming a **SHORT-HAND WRITER**, or a **SHORT-HAND READER**.

In the formation of those characters, let your horizontals be parallels to the blue ruled lines above and below them. Let the semi-circular characters have their arches determined, so as that the one cannot be confounded with the other. The symbols representing *b*, *m*, *p*, have their loops not blind, though that representing *th* is always so. Let the letter *t* be perpendicular to the blue lines, though not drawn upon them; and let the same *t* be so directly formed as not to be mistaken for *d*, or *f*, with which, if ill-formed, it will be assuredly confounded. Let the looped letters have their terminations fixed; and, lastly, let the right and left inclined-line characters be so drawn, as not to be confounded one with the other, or with the perpendicular *t*. When you can describe the characters formed on the centre of the interval of two blue lines without the red ruled *central line*, for greater accuracy bisect the interval by a pencil line drawn through the centre of this interval. By this pencil line you will see how much you have diverged from the *ideal central line*, which is what had been the red ruled line, and on which is the position for all the consonants, and for all words beginning with a consonant. Your principal object now is to form the characters on the *ideal central line*, and to accustom your eye to the position. Begin with the letter *b*, and write each of the characters in the order in which they are placed in plate 1, figure 7, and conclude with *ious*. Having ended that series, begin a new series with the letter *d*, and write each of the characters in their order, and terminate them with the character *b*. Next make *f* or *v* the commencement of a series, and conclude that series with *d*, and so on, making each character the commencement of a series, and concluding each series with the character preceding that character with which you commenced. I must repeat that each of these characters, in each of these series, is to be placed on the *ideal central line*.

## LETTER IV.

London, February 1836.

*Junction of the Consonants.*

MY DEAR FRED.,

This letter you must not condemn as a tedious task. Recollect the terms of our contract. I stipulated for *labour, time, and attention*. This I must get in order to secure to you my portion of the contract. The subject must be known at some period or other : and you know, the earlier we approach a difficulty, the sooner that difficulty will be overcome. Look to the results which I have promised, and continue to promise to you.

Having made a commencement of each of the characters, and having taken special care of the position of each of these characters on the *ideal central line*, which I believe is fixed in your memory, we now proceed to the junction of the consonants ; and, in this junction, the incipient consonant retains its position on the *ideal central line*, and the subsequent consonant takes whatever place the junction requires it to take. Begin with *bb*, and join *b* with each of the consonants. Begin next with *d*, and describe *db, dd, &c. &c.* Begin then with *f*, and describe *fb, fd, ff*, and so on, making a commencement of each of the characters in their order, and associating it first with *b*, then with *d*, &c. &c. See plate 3, figure 1. Here let me inform you, that each character when doubled, is enlarged to mark its duplication. The characters that have loops, when doubled, have those *loops* enlarged, so as to be visibly, and not more than visibly, larger than the single consonant, of which they are the duplicates. The same remark applies to the semi-circular characters, and to the right or straight line characters, which have these characters drawn visibly longer than the single consonant.

You have now formed these characters very often : as simple characters they have been formed by the directions of the foregoing letter, nineteen times each character. In the junction, they have been formed an equal number of times also. If you can procure a very patient person, let him call out the single letters, and do you form them on your paper. Let him next call out the double letters, and write these on your paper also.

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## LETTER V.

London, February 1836.

*The junction of the vowel a with two consonants.*

MY DEAR FRED.,

You will not, I hope, consider these exercises unnecessary. Do not omit any part of them : they must be known at some time or other, and the sooner they are known the better. It is of the highest importance that your eye should be familiarized to the formation of the character, and to the position. Having concluded the junction of the the consonants, we next proceed to join the vowel *a* to the same assemblage of consonants which we have already formed in letter 3: the only difference between them is the essential difference of position. The *a* position of the right line characters *d, f, v, t*, require those characters to have their heads touching the upper blue line, and their extremities merely approaching the *ideal central line*. The letters *l, r*, and *y*, with *a* prefixed spring from above the *ideal central line*, and terminate with the upper blue line. The *a* position of the curved characters, *k, q, n, w*, compels their arches to touch the upper blue line, and the extremities of those arches to approximate to, but not to rest on the *ideal central line*. The looped characters *b, h, p*, and the thick-headed *th*, with *a* prefixed, have the loops and the thick-head touching the upper blue line and their extremities based on the *ideal central line*. *A* when preceding *g* and *ch*, compels them to have the upper extremity touching the upper blue line and the lower extremity independent of the *ideal central line*. The characters *m, c soft, s, x, sh* having *a* prefixed, are placed high above the *ideal central line*. It is almost needless to remark that *ious* never forms the commencement of an English word.

You have remarked in the foregoing exercises, that after the letter *f* there follows a *v*, for this reason, *f* and *v* are expressed by the same brachygraphic character. A similar remark is applicable to *g, j*, and *k, q*, and *c* hard, and also to *s, z*, and to *c* soft. You see that there is no allusion made to the letter *h*, which is only employed in the beginning of the word, *heir* and of such words as have but another consonant to make the word. For instance, the word hard is written *ard*; heart, *art*; high, *i*; and so on. The mark  $\smile$  over the *c* shows that the hard sound of *c* is intended; the mark  $\text{—}$  over the *c* indicates the soft sound.

## LETTER VI.

London, February 1836.

*Junction of the vowel e with each of the Consonants.*

MY DEAR FRED.,

You have now firmly rooted in your memory the single and double consonants, the position of the incipient consonant on the *ideal central line*, and the position of the consonant when preceded by the letter *a* in the same word. We now advance an additional step, and we attach another of the five vowels to each of those consonants, and we proceed with the vowel *e*. The *e* position of the right lined characters *d, f, v, t*, requires those characters to have their extremities on the *ideal central line*, and their heads formed so as not to touch the upper blue line. The *e* position of the characters *r* and *l* springs from the *ideal central line*. The *e* position requires the curved characters *k, q, n, w*, to have their arches independent of the blue lines, and the extremities of those arches to repose on the *ideal central line*. The *e* position of the looped characters *b, h, p*, and of the thick-headed *th*, requires the loops and thick-head to be independent of the upper blue line, and their extremities to be bounded by the *ideal central line*. The *e* position of the letter *l*, requires the loop on the *ideal central line* and its extremity to approach, but not to touch, the upper blue line. The *e* position compels *g*, and *ch*, to have the extremities of their arches on the *ideal central line*, and their heads independent of the upper blue line. The characters *m, c soft, s, x, sh*, with an *e* prefixed, are placed above the *ideal central line*, and totally independent of the blue ruled lines. The *e* position compels *y* to have the commencement of its short curve above *ideal central line*, and its extremity to approach, but not touch, the upper blue line. See plate 1, figure 6 .

## LETTER VII.

London, February, 1836.

*The junction of the vowel i with two consonants.*

MY DEAR FRED.,

The remarks I have made in the preceding letters on those consonants that have vowels prefixed to them, hold good in this letter.

There is no distinction between the consonants having different vowels prefixed, but the distinction of place. The position for consonants having an *i* prefixed, is below, and merely below, the *ideal central line*, and holds the same relation to the *ideal central line* that consonants having a prefixed bear to the upper blue line. The position for consonants having *i* prefixed, is precisely the same below the *ideal central line*, that the position for consonants having an *a* prefixed, is below the upper blue line.

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LETTER VIII.

London, February 1836.

*Junction of the vowels o and u with two consonants.*

MY DEAR FRED.,

This letter concludes what you will not, I hope, pronounce downright drudgery. It is necessary to go through this, and you may say that much of the toil and uninviting labour is then concluded, when you finish this letter and the attendant exercise.

You must now form those consonants which have *o* and *u* prefixed. It rarely or never happens that the same concourse of consonants have an *o* and *u* prefixed to form a word. There will be little trouble, then, in decyphering your writing, which is the only difficulty of which the complaint is universal. The position, then, for the prefixed *o* and *u*, is as low as possible on the interval close to the lower blue line. Be sparing of making invasions on the adjacent interval. You cannot sometimes avoid doing so, when your incipient letter is a loop. See plate 1, fig. 7.

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LETTER IX.

London, March, 1836

*Recapitulation.*

MY DEAR FRED.,

In this system the initial vowel is instantly detected, by the position of the incipient consonants in the interval between the two narrow blue

lines on your ruled paper. The arrangement of what has already been said, is thus recapitulated, viz: on the *ideal central line* is the position for all words beginning with a consonant; within this *ideal central line* and the upper blue line, is the position for all words beginning with the vowels *a* and *e*; the incipient consonant of the words beginning with *a*, occupying a position touching the upper blue line, and higher than the position of the consonants which have an *e* prefixed. In the interval between this *ideal central line*, viz, the line on which is placed the words beginning with a consonant, and the lower blue line is the position for all words beginning with the vowels *i*, *o*, *u*: the words beginning with *i*, occupying a position nearer to the *ideal central line*, and more remote from the lower blue line than the words beginning with *o* and *u*. It is the first vowel of the word which alone is affected. The intermediate vowels of the word have no connection with the position of the consonant commencing a word: the consonants forming the rest of the word, take whatever position the junction requires.

You will probably object to this, and say that the transfer of the pen from one extremity of the interval to the other, creates more delay than the application of a distinctive mark for the initial vowel. To this I reply, that the hand, or rather the fingers, have a complete mastery of the interval; and, by experience, I find that after a little practice, the fingers move mechanically to the proper position. Besides, there must be some fixed place, and the word must begin somewhere. To another objection, namely, the difficulty of decyphering the writing, I answer, from experience, that any person who tries this system, and adopts the advice contained in this book, will confute the objection. There is a gentleman at this moment learning Short-hand from me, on the terms contained in my former letter, and he finds the reading the easier part. He can read in half an hour what he cannot write in that time; and, though commenced hardly one month, he can read in half an hour what he could not write in that time. With little previous practice he can, however, write at the rate of sixty words a minute; and the reading of his writing costs him no trouble, when he has attended to the proper formation and position of his consonants. Again, the same concourse of consonants rarely have an *a* and *e* prefixed, so as to form a word. The same remark applies to those assemblages of consonants which have *i*, *o*, *u*, prefixed. The general rule, which is liable to very few exceptions (see plate 1, fig. 4) is, that all words beginning with *a* and *e* have their commencement above the *ideal central line*; and that all words beginning with *i*, *o*, *u*, have their commencement below the same *ideal central line*. There is not an instance in which

each of the five vowels can be applied to the same concourse of consonants, so as to form a word. The same can be said of any four of the vowels. The instances of three vowels forming words with the same assemblage of consonants is not frequent. You have then merely to distinguish those consonants that form words of similar letters and different signification, by their position on the interval between the blue lines. For example, I give you the words *abject* i.e. *abjet*, *beget*, *object* i.e. *objct*: *amount*, *minute*, *humanity* i.e. *umanity*: *absolute*, *basalt*, *obsolete*: *amen*, *man*, *human* i.e. *uman*. Now, the position for the incipient consonants for *abject*, *amount*, *absolute*, *amen*, is above, and merely above, the *ideal central line*, there being no such words in our language as *object* e.i. *ebjet*, *emount*, *ebsolete*, *emen*, with which those words could be confounded. Again, the position of the incipient consonants of the words *beget*, *minute*, *basalt*, *man*, is on the *ideal central line*, and the position for the incipient consonants of *object*, *umanity*, *obsolete*, *uman*, is below, and merely below, the *ideal central line*, as *i*, *o*, and *u*, are not indiscriminately applicable to those consonants, so as to form English words. The practised eye, accustomed to the interval, instantly marks the proper position—and there is not required that accurate gauging which at first appears requisite. This assuredly gives clearness and rapidity. It is an error to say that there is not any perceptible time expended in the formation of a single point. First, you take up your pen from the paper; secondly, you form the point; and finally, there is the motion of the pen from the point to the formation of the next word. The time for all this is certainly limited, but the intervals are *three*.

After I had received my eight *easy* lessons, to which I have alluded in one of my former letters, I accidentally met with a treatise on Short-hand, which was published about fifteen or sixteen years ago. In that little book was contained all that my teacher taught me, and I believe a great deal more than he knew. The book is elementary, and professes to be no more. I believe an efficient short-hand-writer could not be formed by an adherence to the rules contained in that book. I practised originally, according to the directions contained in the book; but the Speaker abandoned me, and I was compelled to refer to those little resources which I possessed within myself. There is hardly any difference between the elementary parts of that book and mine. The marked initial vowel, which forms an essential part of that system, effectually retards the rapidity of the writer, and the omission of any distinctive mark leaves the reader at sea. With the formation of the point to distinguish the vowels, the writer would gladly dispense, particularly when pursuing the language of a pre-organized speech; but most gladly would

he dispense with the transcribing his notes, when, as is recommended by that book, he should omit the vowel marks, and when those assemblages of consonants, forming words of different signification, viz: those with vowels prefixed, and those not having such vowels, would all occupy the same position. Inspiration might possibly assist him, but no effort of human ingenuity could extricate him, especially after an interval, when his memory could render him no service.

In opening the pages of a book, I find that the words commencing with vowels and with consonants, are not in the ratio of five to twenty-one, viz: the number of vowels and consonants in our language. However, for argument sake I admit this proposition, and I take up a ground which can not be disputed. Let the time employed in taking a report be twenty-four hours, and I leave the writer and the reader to judge what is gained, both in rapidity and in legibility, by this system. Let the Shorthand-writer on both systems proceed to the work with similar manual dexterity and mental information, and I ask to whom will the task be easier, and the labour of transcribing lighter. A pupil of mine, who is now a Barrister, never attempted to transcribe his notes, which he read with the same facility as ordinary writing. But principles are ever permanent, and arts either retrograde or advance, and are never stationary. The author of the book of which I have spoken has improved his predecessors, and I offer him my thanks for enabling me to do that, which I presume to think is an improvement on him. If that author publish a future edition, he will, I am sure, improve on both. Those who have studied that system, will easily understand mine; both being based on the principles of the celebrated Mr. Taylor.

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#### LETTER X.

London, March 1836.

*Powers of the letters.*

MY DEAR FRED.,

We have treated of the consonants in their various conditions, when placed alone, when in conjunction with other consonants, and when joined in each of these conditions to vowels. You are now aware how important is the skilful position of these letters, according to the inci-



pient vowel. When placed in a proper direction they are quite legible, and when displaced, they form rank nonsense. You supposed, I fear, that I was imposing upon you an unnecessary task, when I gave you the exercises of the last three or four letters. You are, I believe, now convinced that these exercises are important, and that the understanding of your writing depends upon your attention to these letters. We have treated of letters and of syllables: we advance another step, and I therefore explain the powers of those letters, which are in one capacity mere letters, and in other capacities entire syllables or words. I take the English Alphabet, and show how each of these letters is marked by a corresponding character in Short-hand.

*A* is a point on the interval between the two blue lines, and close to the upper blue. As a vowel it is never used. It expresses, however, the words *a*, *an*, *one*. When placed over a word, it expresses the words *over*, *over-*, *above*, *above-*, *super-*; as *over* the way, *overtake*, *above* stairs,, *above-mentioned*, *super-cargo*. When under a word, it expresses the prefixes and words *under-*, *under the*, *beneath the*, *subter-*, *sub-*; as *under-mine*, *under the deed*, *beneath the notice*, *subter-fuge*, *sub-editor*.

*B* when alone, in the middle of the interval, stands for *be* and *by*; when written small, and close to the preceding syllable, it expresses the termination *ble*, *bly*.

*C* hard is expressed by *k*, as in crocodile-krokodile.

*C* soft is expressed by *s*, as in the word civil-sivil; when high on the interval it is *as*, in the centre *say*, *see*, when low it is *is*, when very low it is *us* or *use*; that is, it varies its signification according to the vowel position.

*D* at the end of a word, expresses the termination *dom*, as *kingdom*.

*E* is a point in the centre of the interval. As a vowel it is never used: it expresses, however, the pronoun *he* i. e. *e*.

*F* and *V* at the end of a syllable, express the terminations, *of-full*, *-fully*.

*G*, *J*, when written small expresses *go*, when large expresses *give*, and when written heavily expresses *God*.

*H* is hardly ever used in any part of a word, except when followed by the letters *r* and *d*, as *her*, *head*; when alone, it expresses the word *heir*, and at the end of a syllable it marks the termination *hood*, as *man-hood*, *woman-hood*, &c. In the beginning of a word, the letter *h* is unnecessary, as in the word *have* i. e. *av*, that is *v* in the *a* position; *honest* i. e. *onest*, that is *nst* in the *o* position; *hurricane* i. e. *urricane* i. e. *rrcn* in the *u* position; *heart* i. e. *art* i. e. *rt* in the *a* position; *humble* i. e. *umble*,

*umbl* in the *u* position; *humour* i.e. *umour*, i.e. *mr* in the *u* position; *humid* i.e. *umid*, i.e. *md* in the *u* position; *hammer* i.e. *ammer*; i.e. *mnr* in the *a* position; *hidden* i.e. *idden* i.e. *ddn* in the *i* position. The rejection of this letter *h* facilitates expedition.

*I* is a point below the *ideal central line*; as a letter it is never used. It expresses the almost omonymous words *i*, *eye*, *high*.

*J*. See the remarks on the letter *g*.

*K*, when larger than the usual size, it expresses the word *know*, and all parts of that verb. It also expresses all the words of equal signification with that verb; a course only to be resorted to when the language of the speaker is very rapid. For instance; I know, I am aware, I am not ignorant, I am cognizant, &c. &c. &c.

*L*, when with a large loop and low on the interval with the blue line, expresses the word *will*. It is used as the terminative *less* when written small and close to the preceding syllables, as *end-less*, *remorse-less*, &c. &c. When written small on the *ideal central line* it expresses the word *law*; when written on the *ideal central line* large, or double the usual the size, it expresses the word *Lord*.

*M* is used to express the termination *ment*, as *arma-ment*, &c.

*N*, when written small and close to the subsequent syllables expresses the prefix *inter* as *inter-ruption*, &c. &c. It is also used for a terminative, and expresses *ness*, *ance*, *ence*, as *hard-ness*, *accord-ance*, *influence*.

*O* is a light perpendicular line on the lower blue line of the interval. It Expresses *oh*!

*P*, when written very small, below the *ideal central line*, expresses the word *up*. When larger than usual on the *ideal central line*, it expresses the words *people*, *persons*, and the synonymous terms to those words.

*Q*. See *K*.

*R*, when joined with another consonant, cannot be confounded with the consonant *d*. When used alone it cannot be distinguished from that letter. It is in this case necessary to alter its form a little; see plate I, figure I. When with its altered form and high on the interval, it expresses the words *are*, *air*, i.e. *atmosphere*, and the synonymes of these words. When small and below the *ideal central line*, it expresses *or*, and when large and below the *ideal central line* it expresses *our*.

*S*, when placed on the *ideal central line*, small and close to the subsequent word, is used as the terminative *satis*, *circum*. Vide *c*.

*T*, when larger than the usual size, and drawn from the upper blue line, expresses the relative pronouns *that*, *who*, *which*. When drawn

from the *ideal central line*, and larger than the usual size, expresses the word *time*. When placed at the beginning of a syllable, it expresses the prefix *trans*, as *trans-port*, *trans-late*, *trans-fer*, &c. When placed at the end of a syllable, it expresses the termination *tude*, as *habitud-e*. i.e. *abitude*.

*U*. For this letter there is no Short-hand character. As a letter it is never used; as a word, *you*, it is supplied by the letter *y*.

*W*, when small on the *ideal central line* expresses *we*. When placed on the lower blue line of the interval, it expresses *how*. When large on the *ideal central line*, it expresses the interrogatives *who?* *which?* N.B. words having a *u*, or the diphthongal or thriphthongal sound of *u*, are rendered very legible when they have a *w* appended, *view*, *dew*, *anew*, *beauty*; as an incipient letter, it can in most instances be very conveniently omitted, as in *work* i.e. *urk* i.e. *rk* in the *u* position: *world* i.e. *orld* i. e. *rld* in the *u* or *o* position. Who, which, when relatives, are expressed by *that*, see *t*.

*X*, when large, and above the *ideal central line*, expresses the word *example*. In a Court of Equity or Law it expresses *exception*.

*Y* expresses the pronoun *you*.

*Sh*, when large on the *ideal central line*, expresses *shall*. When small on the *ideal central line* it expresses *she*. When below the *ideal central line* it expresses *issue*.

*Th*, when above the *ideal central line* expresses *ath* i.e. *hath*. When below the *ideal central line* expresses *oth* i.e. *oath*. When on the *ideal central line* it expresses *though*, *thy*.

*Ch*, when large, expresses *Court*, *Chancellor*; in this case it must occupy the greater portion of the interval between the two blue lines.

REMARK.—For the termination *ation*, *asion*, you place a point at the beginning of the concluding consonant; for *etion*, *esion*, you place a point at the centre of the preceding consonant; for the termination *ition*, *ision*, you place a point near to the end of the preceding consonant; and for *otion*, *osion*, *ution*, *usion*, you place a point below the end of the preceding consonant, not perpendicular, but adjacent to such preceding consonant.

N.B. A point on the left of a word and close expresses *not in the*, *not in to*, and the synonymous terms *not contained in the*, *from the*; when placed over a word or syllable, it expresses *over-*, *above*, *super-*; when placed directly under a word, it expresses *under*, *under-*, *subter*, *sub*; see *a*.

## LETTER XI.

London, March 1836.

*Remarks on Spelling.*

MY DEAR FRED.,

Your labour and mine are drawing to a close, let me therefore obtain your most minute attention to the remark contained in this letter. In spelling, you must be guided entirely by *sound*, and not by the orthography of the language in which you write. For instance, in the words *paragraph*, *autograph*, *philosopher*, *cough*, *enough*, the *ph* and *gh* are not to be used but according to their sound, that is, the sound of *f*. Remember that silent letters must remain so, as in the word *thought*; here the *ough* is omitted; and when the word is once written in Short-hand character it cannot be confounded or forgotten. It is written as *tht*. Your business is with the sound. A *w* when silent in sound is silent in *writing*. In pronunciation the ear will instantly adopt, though the eye from its education, will not recognize the word.

## LETTER XII.

London, March 1836.

*Remarks on Prefixes and Terminatives.*

MY DEAR FRED.,

What I mean to convey by the words Prefix and Terminative is, that a letter is sometimes used before or after syllables, to express one or two syllables, as in *super-cargo*; here the syllable *super* is expressed by a small point, placed above the subsequent word. In the word *influence*: here the letter *n* placed after the syllables *influ-* expresses the termination *ence*. To terminatives and to prefixes I am opposed as

general rule. They are only to be employed when much is gained by them; that is, when they dispense with the necessity of many consonants, as in the word *super-cargo*. They are also useful when they contribute, as they sometimes do, to intelligibility. Yet, when by placing one consonant, viz. the prefix or terminative, as a substitute for two consonants, you lose time at least. By the use of such arbitraries there is an interval of three movements lost, when two movements would form the entire word. There is also lost the equality of motion, that is, you are obliged to make these arbitrary characters smaller and closer than the usual writing. This, to any man who has practised Short-hand, is a very great inconvenience, and has the same effect that sudden slow walking has on a man moving, and accustomed to move, at a rapid and regular pace, and limited also to time. These arbitraries are not to be used unless you gain three consonants at least. In this treatise such arbitraries are limited, and they are recommended only when time and intelligibility require their use.

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LETTER XIII.

London, March 1836.

*Reporting.*

MY DEAR FRED.,

The machinery is arranged, and we now proceed to put the engine in motion. Paper, pens, ink, wrist, fingers, all in their proper places; attention and resolution to direct them. I made no stipulation with you for the arbitraries in the plates at end of this book. You will find that there was no necessity for such stipulation. There are, and it is necessary that there should be, arbitraries, because you and every one must know, that there are words formed of such accommodating letters, that they blend one with the other, and form almost one word. Two, and sometimes three, of these little words, are formed by a *single* exhalation of the speaker. It is necessary, then, that you accommodate your fingers to his tongue, and make by a single movement, what he utters by a single breath. Let lazy people growl as they may, this must be done.

Your progress hitherto depended on your own care and attention, and on the exercise of you eyes and fingers. One of your organs has been suffered to slumber, and that must now be roused into activity. That organ is the Ear. The Eye may relax its labour, and confine its watchfulness to the fingers, in order to keep the initial letters in their proper positions in the interval. Your business is now with your Ear, the Speaker's voice, and your fingers. Close your eye on every book that is presented to you. Your business is now with sound and not sight. This it is that leaves a self-taught Student at sea. He learns the principles of some Short-hand system, and then seats himself to transcribe a book or paper that is placed beside him. He afterwards goes to some public place where there is speaking, and finds himself totally incompetent to do that, of which his previous practice, and perhaps his facility, prompted him to think himself capable. Had he engaged the Ear, and not the Eye, his success would not be so problematical. What would he think if a person were to suggest to him the facility of learning Short-hand by feeling? To acquire it by seeing alone is equally ridiculous and unavailable. I said, and say, that to employ the Eye as the principal means of acquiring Short-hand is injurious. So far as this it is injurious, that the Student exercises an organ which will not, and cannot, conduct him to the intended result of his labours: and, moreover, he will acquire a habit which he must afterwards abandon, and substitute in its stead a new and a better one. Let the person who means to study Short-hand without the assistance of a teacher, procure a person who has an unusual share of patience, equal, if not superior, to that of Job. Let him take from the book-shelf one of the orators of the Augustan age of English eloquence, and open the pages of Burke, Grattan, Erskine, or Curran. Let Job take the book to the most remote corner of the room from the Student. When the first oration is opened, let the reader lay a watch on the table, and utter each word of the first sentence audibly, with an interval of three seconds between the enunciation of each word, until the sentence is concluded. Let the writer then begin the last word of the sentence, and read backwards to the Speaker or Reader. If the Writer cannot read what he has written, let the Reader begin the sentence a second time, and read as at first, and let the Writer take a note of the sentence as previously directed, and read backwards. Let the reading and writing continue until the writing is read without any assistance. It is injurious to the Writer to have the notes he has taken read to him. This course, though at first tedious, will work its own remedy. The writing will be, and must be, correctly written, or the reading cannot be made good. Here it is that

a good teacher becomes of paramount importance, to point out the errors that necessarily arise to a beginner. It is here that the assistance of such a teacher saves much expense of time and labour, and will give precision to the exertions of the Student, who, without such assistance, must inevitably labour under uncertainty as to the correctness of his work. The only corrective, then, without such assistance, is the course now suggested: namely, that of compelling the Student to read his notes backwards, without the assistance of the reader, or of the writer's memory. When the first sentence is finished with ease within the prescribed interval of three seconds between each word, let the speaker proceed at the rate of two seconds of interval between each word of the same sentence, and let the same process of reading and writing continue as in the first attempt. When the writer can read and write with an interval of two seconds with ease, let one second of interval be resorted to. When this is done, let another sentence be commenced, and proceed with this second sentence as with the first, in reading, writing, and translation, which latter should be always oral. When this sentence can be accomplished within one second of interval between each word, begin the first sentence, and let the reading and writing continue at the rate of one second of interval between each word. Let a third sentence be taken, and proceed as in the first; and when that third sentence can be accomplished within the interval of one second of time, take the three sentences and read and write them slowly, and so on with each sentence, always concluding with a recapitulation of the preceding sentences, until the entire oration is finished. This will be considered by indolent persons, to whom I do not address myself, a very laborious task. It is necessary, however, and I know it to be finally successful. Recollect that the fingers are learning a new language; and that the tongue, whose peculiar province is language, requires frequent repetition. When the arbitrarics express two words, let those words be pronounced by the speaker as one word; as for instance, *in the, at the, on the, of the, to the, by the, &c.* Let the writer recollect that it is by sound, and not by the orthoepy of the language by which he is to be governed. Never omit repeating, or if I may be permitted to say, re-writing what has been previously written, until the fingers move mechanically to the sound. In Short-hand, as in languages, a vocabulary must be acquired to ensure correctness. The reader must be punctual in noting the time, by alternately fixing his eye upon the book and upon the paper; and the writer equally punctual in the symmetry of his writing, as if his object was to obtain success by the exhibition of his manual performance, and not by his rapidity.

When one oration is concluded, begin another in the same manner as the first oration; but let the writing and reading of that first oration be repeated, until the subsequent oration is concluded, and so on with each oration. *Avoid haste, and an exhibition of success, by a premature display of rapidity. Preserve an equal motion: rapidity comes from practice, and not from precipitancy.* When you have written these orations in this manner, I advise you to limit the interval of one second of the first oration to half a second, and then proceed at that rate. Let the oration, prior to that on which you are engaged, be always read and written at the rate of an interval of half a second between each word. Continue this course for two months at least, and then say that your hopes of success are being realized. Let not one day escape without an exercise of two hours. At the commencement the loss of a day retards you more than the practice of a day advances you. Do not hurry, though you should think yourself capable of writing faster than the prescribed time allows. Recollect that there are some words, the writing of which may retard you longer than the writing of others. Time and care will do what impatience and precipitancy may destroy. If you write what you cannot read, your time, labour, &c. is gone, and an invaluable acquisition is lost. How many hundreds, nay thousands, have commenced and discontinued Short-hand for those reasons. Your progress will be certainly slow at the commencement, but your success will be equally certain. Continue this course for two months, and you will be astonished at the quantity you will be enabled to read and write with ease in one hour, at the end of this time. At the end of three months, a person ignorant of what can be written and read by the assistance of Short-hand, would not, and could not, believe what you could write. You see that Short-hand is a work of labour—that labour and attention can accomplish it—and that *six easy lessons* could never achieve it. You must avoid going into Assemblies, or into Courts of Law, until the period of the specified time. To a Learner, it is highly injurious to frequent those places for the purpose of practice. He feels himself obliged to keep pace with the Speaker before he is capable of doing so, which gives a habit of irregular writing, that is easier acquired, than when acquired, omitted. There is, besides, another objection, which is, that the writing cannot be compared or checked with the original, as can be done by transcribing a book. In public places there cannot be any thing better than probability or conjecture. A young friend, to whom I taught this system, is at present at College, and is eating his way to the Bar. I read for him in the manner I here recommend. The book [selected for tran-



scribing was Erskine's Speeches. When in good spirits, with good pens, ink and paper, he has occasionally written and read 1400, 1600, and on more than one occasion 2000 words in ten minutes. I never permitted him to transcribe his notes in the English character. He was always obliged to read these notes. The reading was at first very troublesome, but I did not allow him to relax. The very difficulty ensured his success, as that difficulty arose from inattention to the position of the initial character; he did not at first pay sufficient attention to the position. The difficulty which he encountered in reading, made him particularly cautious in the translation, until at last he could read his notes with as much ease, as a person unacquainted with the hand-writing of a new acquaintance would read that hand-writing. I subjoin two examples, which you will find written in Short-hand characters in plate 2, figures 1-2.

*Extract from the Speech of Mr. Grey (on the Trial of  
Warren Hastings).*

“No contrast can be more strong, than the description given by Cheyt Sing, of the territory of Benares, while under his government, compared with its situation while under the East India Company:— ‘My fields,’ says the Rajah, ‘are cultivated—my towns and villages full of inhabitants—my country is a garden, and my Riots are happy. The principal merchants of India, from the security of my government, resort to my capital, and make it their residence. It is the Bank of India, and contains the treasures of the Mahrattas, the Jaics, the Saics, the Native, and the European Nations. The traveller and the stranger, from one end of my country to the other, lay down down their burdens and sleep in security.’ When Mr. Hastings, on the contrary, went through these countries, famine and misery marched hand in hand, through uncultivated fields and deserted villages. There were found only the infirm and the aged, who were unable to fly; robbers prepared to kill; and tigers, whose ferocity marked the desolation of the scene. Such was the contrast between the dominion of the insolent Rajah, and of the unassuming and judicious Mr. Hastings. Think, my Lords, if you can with rational anger, of outrage, exaction, devastation and death,—the plunder of provinces, the devastation of nations—all nature blasted by the withering malignity of man, the helpless and the unoffending—

what is useful and what is honorable, the peasant and the prince—all prematurely swept together to the grave. His deeds—whoever sins up to deeds like these—his deeds be upon his head; he, by whom the seeds of ruin are scattered, his is the harvest of iniquity; the penal responsibility at each exact tribunal, here and hereafter. See plate 2, figure 1.

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*The Address to the Orangemen of Ireland.*

**BRETHREN.**

“The last few hours have been fraught with acts of momentous importance to our loyal institution.

“The situation of those members of the legislature in whom you have so long reposed confidence, has been one of extreme difficulty, as regards long cherished feelings and attachment, which we should have felt insurmountable, had we not been intimately acquainted with the spirit of religious and political subordination which has ever been the distinctive feature of our bond of union.

“We have now no need to remind you that the foundation of that union has been strictly Scriptural, exemplified in the short sentence, ‘Fear God, honour the King,’ and having hitherto experienced your unshaken steadiness during successive trials of no ordinary character, we now confidently appeal to you.

“We have been placed in a most painful position, viz. either to advocate the continuance of an institution, opposed not only by our enemies, on account of our religious and political principles, but by many of our most eminent and Conservative friends, who are of opinion that secret societies should be discontinued. Under such circumstances, the attempt to prolong our existence, by adopting a violent course of opposition, might have exposed ourselves and you, to that which we have never laid ourselves open to, ‘a suspicion of conditional loyalty.’ Our second course was to state, that if our strong remonstrances with the present advisers of his Majesty, did not avert the injustice that was threatened to our loyal body, the King’s will, constitutionally expressed, would be obeyed by us in spirit as well as to the letter; and that we would submit, as we had often done, to any obloquy, in assertion of the true Christian basis of our social compact.

“ Could we hesitate for a moment as to our course of duty? You know the result, and to give full effect to this statement, we offer our advice and admonition.

“ The attention of England is fixed upon you, and humanly speaking, you are to determine the fate of Protestantism in Ireland. Friends and enemies expect your decision with almost equal interest—the adversary hoping that some manifestation of intemperance will place you within its power—of friends, confident that you will be found equal to the difficulties of the occasion, and will give a crowning assurance of the pure faith and loyalty by which you ever have been distinguished.

“ We cannot, and do not, attempt to disguise from you, that the address voted by the House of Commons was not called for by the state of Ireland, or by any demerits in our institutions. We cannot say to you that the dangers, to meet which the Orange Institution was framed, threaten us no longer, or that *you* must not, as *we*, feel it a painful task to relinquish an association justly endeared to us; but we can tell you an opportunity has now been given you which should not be lost—the opportunity of manifesting a dutiful regard to the feelings of our gracious Sovereign, and offering to his Majesty a proof of steadfast attachment, of which we are persuaded he will never be forgetful.

“ The severe duty has devolved on us of recommending that, in the spirit of the generous devotedness which has always characterised the Orange Society, you now dissolve it.

“ The sacrifice is great; and we will not conceal from you that attendant circumstances may render it more painful. You may have to endure the taunts of the malignant, and to resist the temptations of those who for their own dark ends, would provoke you to indiscretion; but the reward is also great. You will release your sovereign from embarrassment; you will disappoint the malevolence of your enemies; you will win for yourselves the approbation of the wise and good, and silence by one heroic act the slanders which have long been circulated against your reputation.

“ Receive, brethren, the advice and admonition in the feeling in which they are offered, and with them the pledge that your confidence shall not be abused. Anticipate legislation; relieve the Sovereign from the necessity of enforcing severe measures against you. To the renown you had previously well-earned, of being ready at your King's command to encounter every danger, and endure every toil, add the still higher honour of renouncing all feelings he would discourage, and even the institution in which you have found such effectual protection. Show your brethren in England, that you are patient as much as resolved—

that your principles of religion and loyalty are not of a nature to fall away in the time of trouble and rebuke. Show them that the lessons of Christian endurance taught by the instruction and example of the persecuted ministers of the Protestant Church have not been learned in vain, and be encouraged by a confident trust, that the King and people who came forward so nobly to sustain those afflicted men under their temporal privations, will never desert the high cause for which they are suffering, or forsake you, who will have thus proved yourselves worthy to be permitted by an allwise Providence to rank amongst its most faithful champions." See plate 2 fig. 2.

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LETTER XIV.

London, March 1836.

*Law Reporting.*

MY DEAR FRED.,

Having now gone through a probationary course of two or three months, you are, I suppose, anxious to make your way into one of the Courts of Law. I shall have great pleasure in accompanying you thither on your first visit, and I shall give you that advice which my experience enables me to give you. I shall first give you my opinion as to the Court you shall select. In going through Westminster Hall, and taking your choice of all the Courts for your débüt, I beg leave to suggest to you the Court of Chancery; because the Reporter who can acquit himself satisfactorily in that Court, is capable of reporting the proceedings of the other Courts with ease. The cases and language that occur in the Court of Chancery are as professional as the language and cases that occur in the other Courts. Besides, it is the depository of much of the property of the country; and the slow and tedious process of examining witnesses does not occur here. I give for your especial use as a Law reporter, many of the professional terms used in that Court. Your own ingenuity must supply the deficiency, as the cost of engraving all the contracted sentences would be a very expen-

sive affair. For all your arbitraries, have a fixed form in you mind and on your paper, and to that figure, even though diffuse, adhere. This advice you will find important when you proceed to the transcribing. These things called arbitraries, will immediately occur to your memory, as they are connected with the word itself and also with the meaning. To a person unacquainted with this system, the arbitraries appear unconnected with the words or sentences of which those arbitraries are the types; they do not, however, burden the memory of the initiated. They are selected parts of the words or sentences. We now proceed to the far end of the Hall, and enter the Court of Chancery, and on the right, when you enter, you see the list of causes. Take down in plain writing on you report-book the cause you mean to report, that is, the names of the parties, day, date, month, year, and Judge. Select your seat in the place that is most convenient for hearing the Court and the Counsel, and let that place be between them. If you have influence sufficient get near the Registrar, and if you cannot accomplish this, plant yourself in the place appointed for Solicitors below the bar, and endeavour to find out what is the subject-matter of the cause on which you are engaged. This will relieve your mind of the burden of eviscerating the gist of the Counsel's argument while you are engaged in writing. Here you will encounter much inconvenience, by the buzzing of Solicitors, anxious for Costs, Cause and Clients. You will also suffer something from the prating of their unfledged apprentices, striving to talk themselves into ephemeral importance. You must, however, endure all this. The mumbling and muttering will at first distract your attention and embarrass your report: you will, however, acquire by it an abstraction of mind and concentration of attention, which will eventually enable you to perform your work although cannons (unshot) were roaring in your ears. When the cause is called which you intend to report, have your pens, ink, and paper ready. Take down on your paper the name of the Counsel as he rises to speak, and do not foolishly think that the eyes of the whole court are fixed upon you. The cause and Counsel have a prior claim. Attend to the statement of the leading Counsel. In the first few sentences you will find the marrow of the argument, the subject-matter of the dispute, which consists in general of one proposition. As you have already on your paper the name of the parties in full, select the leading distinguishing letter of the name of each party, use that letter instead of the name and also for Plaintiff and Defendant, or whatever other names the variety of the Counsel's vocabulary may suggest as applicable to these parties. If the pleading occupies much time and you are not relieved by others, you

must be sparing of your strength. The labour of three hours Short-hand writing and its concomitant absorbing attention is no sinecure. Note the headings of those passages in the pleadings that are read by the Counsel and reserve yourself for the speaking. The Solicitors of either party may lend you one of the briefs from which you can transcribe what is read. If this be not practicable, eviscerate the substance and omit the redundancy of legal technicality. When the language of the Court interrupts that of the Speaker, do not drop a line, but enclose the language of the Court in a parenthesis. Enclose the interruption of an opposing Counsel within two straight lines as you enclosed that of the Judge within two curves, i. e. a parenthesis.

FINIS.

Fig. 2. & 3.

English Alphabet	Symbol	Fig. Words	Position of Symbols	Practice	Terminations	B	D	FV	GJ	KOC	L	M	N	P	R	S	T	W	X	Y	S.H.	C.H.	T.H.	
a	•	a an one			when																			
b	2	belly			by	B	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
d	1	do		des	dom	D	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
e	•	he			den	E.V	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
f					fulle	F.V																		
g	)	on you and				G.V	)	)	)	)	)	)	)	)	)	)	)	)	)	)	)	)	)	)
h	o	hair			head	H	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o
i	•	eye now			in	M	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
k	~	know			head	N	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~
l	6	land law			law	P	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
m	o	may me			mouth	R	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o
n	•	no on			on	S	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
o	,				on	T	,	,	,	,	,	,	,	,	,	,	,	,	,	,	,	,	,	,
p	2	power		P		W	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	
r	1	are				V	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
s	z	see			with	Y	z	z	z	z	z	z	z	z	z	z	z	z	z	z	z	z	z	z
t	1	take			hand	S.H.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
w	2	what			with	C.H.	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
x	~	you			with	T.H.	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~
y	✓	you				ious	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
s.h.	-	she			when																			
t.h.	•	through																						
o.h.	(	Paul																						
was																								

Fig. 4.

Fig. 5.

Fig. 6.

Fig. 7.

Fig. 8.

Fig. 9.

English	Symbol	Fig. Words	Position of Symbols	Practice	Terminations
any thing, ought.	•				
not any thing	o				
with any, or ought.	o				
every each.	e				
imp. engaging, ad	10				
ang, hanging	10				
with, enging to with	10				
had to with, relative to the	10				
between, between.	2				
in consideration of	v				
in, in a way	v				
in, in a manner	v				
in account of	v				
for the purpose of	1				
not imp. of into	d				
ing, the device.	d				
life, none.	6				
with, which.	2				
with, which we	22				
we, with.	2				
who? which?	o				

above, above, over, be	•	as the, as to the	7	that the	1
on the, upon the	•	at the	1	is into, unto the	•
under, under, under, beneath	•	by the	2	as it is	2
as for example, viz	-	of the	3	in the,	•
above, on, over, and	•	is the, it is the	7	who, which, that,	1
in, across, be	•	is to the	7	with what,	22
what, behind, - through	9	of the	•	government,	2
a, an	•	"	•	power.	2
and, the	•	principal - file	2		2
hand in hand	•				









An absolute power of the <sup>cloven</sup> <sub>10</sub>	Bankruptcy	6c	Bro't in and seized in cases	21
Accessory after the fact	The Bankrupt	6	for renewal	22
before	Bill in Equity	8	Exec's cause	23
Act of Bankruptcy	of Exceptions	8	Bill	28
Parliament	Blood of the 1 <sup>st</sup> Purchaser	8	remainder	29
Accounts settled & signed	Capias ad audiendum	ca	Courtesy, tenant by	th
An action at law	respondendum qd	ca	Defendant	d
Action chose in	satisfaciend <sup>m</sup>	ca	Demurrer in Equity	27
Actual right of possession	Cause set down for further	ca	Deceit	d
An Administrator,	to be heard on	ca	carriage of	d
under the will	Costinque trust	ca	Devise under the will	6c
Administration	use	2	Devisor, Devisee	dr de
with the will annexed	Chancellor, Court	2	De donis conditionalibus	don
de bonis non	of Exchequer	2	(Statutes)	7
durante absentia	Charitable uses	2	(Disabling) statutes	7
minore etate	Chattels real	2	Donor of the power	28
An affidavit	personal	2	Donor of conditional	29
An aggregate corpor <sup>n</sup>	Chief Justice of H. Bench	2	Donee	29
Alienation, fine for	Barons of Excheq <sup>r</sup>	2	Eccl <sup>i</sup> astical corp <sup>s</sup>	29
forfeiture by	Cognizor, Cognizee	2	Elegit Writ of	29
by common assurances	Collateral consanguinity	2	Enabling statutes	29
An amended bill in Equity	Colligendum bona letters	2	Enlarging	29
Apparent right of possession	Commission of Bank <sup>cy</sup>	2	Equity of redemption	29
An Arbitrator	Array	2	Estate in Lands	29
An arbitration	Lunacy	2	at will	29
Arguments of learned friends	to examine Witnesses	2	for years	29
of opposite counsel	to take answers in Equity	2	Examination of Bank <sup>cy</sup>	29
Assensu, dower ex patris	Committee of a Lunatic	2	Exceptions	29
Assets real	Common tenant in	2	to Master's report	29
personal	of pers. property	2	Executor, Executrix	29
Assignment of a Bank <sup>t</sup>	Commons house of	2	Executed remainder	29
Insolv <sup>t</sup>	Consideration of the cont <sup>ts</sup>	2	Execution of a devise	29
Assignment of Bank <sup>t</sup> effects	Deed	2	a lease	29
Insolv <sup>t</sup>	Contingent legacies	2	uses	29
chose in action	remainders	2	will	29
Dower	trustees to support	2	Executory devise	29
an Estate	Contract simple	2	estate	29
Insurance common	special	2	contract	29
covenant for further ass <sup>t</sup>	Copyhold for life	2	remainder	29
Attorney General	Corporal hereditim <sup>t</sup>	2	Exec's Admors & Signi	29
Autre vie tenant pour pas	Covenant in the deed	2	Ex parte statement	29
Auxiliary Form		2	Fee farm rent	29
		2	simple	29



Testamentary guardian	26	Petition of Bank of	2	Testamentary guardian	26
Testator	12	Plea in bar of accusation	85	Testator	12
Testatrix	12	equity	87	Testatrix	12
Trust term	12	Policy of Insurance	8	Trust term	12
money	12	Prima facie	14	money	12
Valuable consideration	10	Property real & personal	8	Valuable consideration	10
Vested remainders	22	Purchaser bona fide	112	Vested remainders	22
Vivo vadio estate	27	for value consid.	112	Vivo vadio estate	27
Volunteer	29	Purchase money	2	Volunteer	29
Waste impeach <sup>d</sup> for	165	Quia emptores statutes of, quia	2	Waste impeach <sup>d</sup> for	165
with!	2	Recogniz <sup>ce</sup> in nature of	27	with!	2
Will construed accor	60	Recovery, common	20	Will construed accor	60
ding to testators	60	conditional	21	ding to testators	60
intention.	60	Remainder, residuum	2	intention.	60
The Honorable	99	Remainder-man	20	The Honorable	99
member.	99	Re-publication of the will	6	member.	99
The Rt. Hon <sup>ble</sup> Mem <sup>br</sup>	99	Residuum of intestates estate	21	The Rt. Hon <sup>ble</sup> Mem <sup>br</sup>	99
The Hon <sup>ble</sup> Learned	94	Restraining statutes	7	The Hon <sup>ble</sup> Learned	94
The Noble Lord	6	Remedial	9	The Noble Lord	6
Earl	6	Reversioner, reversion	112	Earl	6
Viscount	6	Review, revivor bill of	11	Viscount	6
		Revocation of leases	112		
		uses	11		
		wills	118		
		Set aside	77		
reference to, inquired	110	Settlement deed of	1		
Member of Parliamt	9	Generally, tenants in	12		
Mensa et thro' divorce	112	Simple contract debts	102		
Mortgagor	112	Solicitor General	99		
Mortgagee, Mortgage Mem	112	Specific perform <sup>ce</sup> of	11		
Stat <sup>utes</sup> main statutes of	112	contract	10		
Non compos mentis	112	Strict settlement in	110		
Non eceat regno; writ of	112	Statute of uses	1		
On to be heard on, pled <sup>d</sup> off	112	2 Charles	262		
Order conditional	112	Subpoena	10		
decretal	112	Sur charged falsify	115		
absolute	112	Supplemental bill	8		
minutes of the mo	112	Surrender, deed of	110		
of reference	112	Tenant in tail male after, then	112		
Particular estate	112	female special	112		
tenants	112	fee simple	112		
Petition of Appeal	8	Tenendum of the deed	112		















**DERRY & SOMES**  
**NOTTINGHAM 1997**

