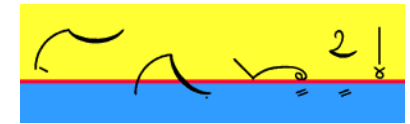


ABOUT SHORTHAND

p2 of 2

This excerpt is taken from Sir Isaac Pitman's book "A Manual of Phonography" of 1852 where he is quoting the words of Mr Gawtress who inspired his first study of shorthand.



www.long-live-pitmans-shorthand.org.uk

Pitman's New Era Shorthand Reading

Shorthand © Beryl L Pratt

PDF DATE: 17 May 2012

<http://long-live-pitmans-shorthand.blogspot.co.uk>

Advantages of Shorthand

A practical acquaintance with this art is highly favourable to the improvement of the mind, invigorating all its faculties, and drawing forth all its resources. The close attention requisite in following the voice of the speaker, induces habits of patience, perseverance, and watchfulness, which will gradually extend themselves to other pursuits and avocations, and at length inure the writer to exercise them on every occasion in life.

When writing in public, it will also be absolutely necessary to distinguish and adhere to the train of thought which runs through the discourse, and to observe the modes of its connection. This will naturally have a tendency to endue the mind with quickness of apprehension, and will impart an habitual readiness and distinctness of perception, as well as a methodical simplicity of arrangement, which cannot fail to conduce greatly to mental superiority.

The judgment will be strengthened and the taste refined; and the practitioner will by degrees become habituated to seize the original and leading parts of a discourse or harangue, and to reject whatever is common-place, trivial, or uninteresting.

The memory is also improved by the practice of stenography. The obligation the writer is under to retain in his mind the last sentence of the speaker, at the same time that he is carefully attending to the following one, must be highly beneficial to that faculty, which, more than any other, owes its improvement to exercise. And so much are the powers of retention strengthened and expanded by this exertion, that a practical stenographer will frequently recollect more without writing, than a person unacquainted with the art could copy in the time by the use of common-hand.

It has been justly observed, "this science draws out all the powers of the mind;—it excites invention, improves the ingenuity, matures the judgement, and endows the retentive faculty with those superior advantages of precision, vigilance, and perseverance." (314 words)

(NB: Punctuation is copied exactly from the original book.)