

MODERN SHORTHAND

FROM THE BEGINNING OF THE SEVENTEENTH TO THE MIDDLE OF
THE NINETEENTH CENTURY.

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Since the publication in the proceedings of this association of the paper which I presented on "Ancient and Mediæval Shorthand," it has been my intention to submit additional papers for the purpose of giving a connected history of our art from the earliest time to the present. I would have submitted the following several years ago, but have refrained from doing so owing to the little interest generally manifested in such history. However, in the hope that additional information may tend to create increased interest in the matter, I beg your indulgence for presenting this brief running commentary upon the history of Modern Shorthand. This paper takes up the subject from where it was left in the previous one, namely: at the close of the sixteenth century, and brings it down to the invention of phonography by Isaac Pitman in 1837.

When shorthand was first used in England is hard to determine. The first professional work has been ascribed to John Jewell, Bishop of Salisbury, in the middle of the 16th century. There is no doubt but that he wrote some species of shorthand, as described in a Latin work published in 1573, two years after Jewell's death, by Lawrence Humphrey, who says: "He was always a tachygraphist and polygraphist, so that he could express many things quickly and neatly; he took down discourses almost to the word." Jewell also reported the lectures of Peter Martyr, in 1549, in England, and also at Strasburg, and was one of the official writers at the great disputations on the Sacraments of the Altar, in Oxford, in 1554.

This brings us down to about the close of the 16th century, or the Golden Age of English literature, which age was, in many respects the most remarkable in the world's history. In it is enshrined that galaxy of immortal names of scholars, statesmen, historians, poets,—including such men as Spencer, Sidney, Scott,

