

the art of *short*, and so of *speedy* writing, to which none is comparable, plainly delivered unto thee, so as by thine own industry, thou mayest attain it if thou wilt but one month take pains therein, and by the continuance of another month mayst thou attain to great readiness." It is needless to say that the system could not be easily learned, notwithstanding he says it could be done in two months.

The title of one of John Willis' works reads: "A school master to the art of stenography, adapted to the understanding of the meanest capacity." The title of a work by Edmund Willis is: "An abbreviation of writing by character, with plain and easy rules for the speedy performance thereof, without any other tutor." In the preface of one of his editions, he congratulates himself on the success of his labors, as follows: "I have now, by further enlargement of this book, brought it forth stronger limbed and more able to do the world service, for the advancement of those public ends whereunto my desires have wholly leveled, God's glory, and the benefit of many thousand souls in the posterities yet to come, when myself shall return to Him that made me and be gathered to the sepulchres of my fathers." After speaking of the propensity of the age to slander and envy, he says: "But I thank God that I have that testimony within myself which shall be as a good tide to take me off from such shelves. My testimony is mine own conscience, that my intentions are not hereby to sound a trumpet before myself, but only to do somewhat for public good, which may further mine accounts at the last day, that I have not altogether run in vain, neither labored to no purpose."

According to the usual practice of those times, there is affixed to Willis' publication a poetical tribute to the author's excellence. A portion of it as follows:

"Thou hast by art upon such judgment grounded,
And so exact a method has propounded
By characters, to write with such speed
As may be thought by all a worthy deed,
In which rare art may be well understood,
How Willis' *will*—*is* to do all men good."

All his statements seem rather paradoxical, when we take into consideration the fact that his system was not much more than a copy of that of his namesake, John Willis.

The next author of note was Thomas Shelton. In 1641 he pub-