

Plucked from an Eagle's Wing." Also, "Art's Advancement," and several other works. His portrait adorned this work also and underneath the following lines were placed:

" Let SHELTON, RICH, and all the rest go down,  
Bring here your Golden Pen and Laurel Crown.  
Great MASON'S nimbler Quill out-strips ye Winde,  
And leaves ye Voyce, almost ye Thoughts behind.  
In vain may MOMUS snarl; He soars on high;  
Praise he commands, and ENVY does defie."

Other curious titles, by succeeding authors, are as follows: "The Flying Penman," "Shorthand Writing Begun by Nature, Completed by Art," "Shorthand, yet Shorter," "Maximum in Minimo, or the Pen's Dexterity Completed," "Shorthand Unmasked," "My Stenographical Sermon Catcher;" and so we might go on to the end of the chapter.

Each of these authors claimed that his particular system was the shortest and most easily acquired of any of the systems extant. Some said their systems could be learned in a few hours, a few weeks, or, at most, in a few months. From what we now know of the perplexity and shortcomings of their systems, and the difficulty of learning them sufficiently well for practical purposes, we can honestly doubt these assertions. In fact, we can definitely prove the contrary to be the case. Regarding the Tironian Notes, a writer of several centuries ago, as referred to in our former paper, said that if you desired to subject a person to all forms of punishment, you would only have to make him learn stenography. We also find a statement somewhat forcibly illustrated by a gentleman who has left his mark, but not his name in a book, which was published in 1674, and which I have here among others on exhibition. The date of his birth and death I cannot give you, but we have the evidence in black and white, showing that at one time of his existence he was a much discouraged and disgusted man. He, too, was somewhat irreverent in expressing his feelings, and as it was more expressive than elegant, we shall not quote it, but you may read it here in the book itself, should you desire.

Coming down to more recent times, we find that the difficulty was not materially decreased, to substantiate which we have only to quote the words of a man whose name is familiar to every school-boy, namely, Charles Dickens. Mr. Dickens was a shorthand reporter for many years, and in his tale of "David Copper-