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UNEXAGGERATED ANALYSIS

PITMAN—SPENCERIAN CHARTIER, By J. M. Reaser, Principal.

COMMERCIAL DEPARTMENT,

Spencer Business College

In the United States there are more than 500 Business Colleges teaching Spencerian Charter Shorthand.

In the last 30 days there have been more than twenty-five business colleges and High Schools adopting the Spencerian Chartier.

In the past 20 days there have been FOUR Business Colleges in the City of Chicago alone that have recognized its irrisistible tide and have sent orders for books. These were formerly Pitman Schools.

WHO considers the cumulative difficulties through which one wades from his first lesson in the Pitman system until he reaches the point where he is master of it—and a careful, unbiased and unexaggerated analysis of these difficulties was rehearsed last week—is not surprised at the long and tedious journey.

He is not surprised at the time it takes the best mind, naturally gifted for his work, to reach the excellence of a full-fledged stenographer.

The expert himself will corroborate every word of this analysis.

It's the ignorant man, the person who really knows nothing of shorthand or so little as not to be able to make it of any use, who cannot take a speech or simple dictation fluently; it is this person who denies these obvious truths.

Indeed, a man need not know shorthand to examine this analysis and to recognize the truth. Biased or stubborn ignorance alone, a worship of the dead and distant past, of what is old and mouldy, these elements alone can experience a feeling of resistance to the encroachments of progress.

The same spirit would favor Fulton's boat in preference to the mighty crafts propelled by steam now ploughing the waters of the globe. To them the Lusitania is a desecration of the memory of Columbus. The Pitman system of shorthand is fast dying in this country and it's only the old Pitman teachers and writers who are too old to adopt something new that are sticking to it.

Since 1887 shorthand has been at a standstill.

Students innumerable have been going over the same journey.

Innumerable of them have fallen by the wayside.

Few have reached a point where, with great difficulty, they write at a pacer's gait.

The very few have attained the summit!

Some have never been able to master it.

Pitman shorthand is no joke—no child's sport!

With night students, Pitman shorthand is a bugbear. The great majority of night students find it necessary to devote one and two years to it, if they master it to a point of usefulness. Eighty per cent never master it so as to be able to make practical use of it. One-half of them give it up in disgust in less than three months after beginning the study. The books of any school in New Orleans will show the above conditions to be absolutely true in every respect.

AN APPEAL TO REASON AND VISION.

It is desired here to occupy this space with a comparative analysis of the reason why—

The Spencerian Chartier shorthhand may be taken up by school children in the Third Reader and learned even more easily than they learn longhand—much more easily.

We are prepared to show this as completely, as convincingly, as unanswerably, by appeal to reason and vision, as by students—whether experts or just beginning.

The old system is so difficult because it is a written language of consonants.

If, at any time, you write in a vowel, it is to make sure of an unusual word.

Except the innumerable word-signs, it is a written language of guessing.

Spencerian Chartier writes the vowels while it is writing the consonants.

The aim of this article is to show you clearly that—

The Spencerian Chartier System writes the vowels while it is writing the consonants; i. e., so large a percentage of them as to render the written language of Spencerian Chartier as legible to read and easier to learn than longhand.

Pitman never reached the point of considering physical advantages.

The task before him was to devise a system, which, however great the toil, would actually make shorthand possible.

That and that alone was his problem.

And fully three generations have plodded along, apparently content with his achievement.

The great majority of people know nothing of shorthand except what they hear. It is not spectacular. It cannot be driven around town like an automobile, that every one may judge of its smooth running machinery or its cumbersomeness.

There are pages of rules and exceptions in Pitman shorthand; his last edition, if published in this paper, would stir parents of New Orleans to indignation, and they would resent an appeal to their boys and girls to study a system as long drawn out, as hard to learn, as hard to write and still harder to read.

BEFORE OR AFTER THE CONSONANT.

When you see a consonant in the Pitman system, you never know, whatever its position, whether the vowel comes before or after the consonant.

The vowel, indicated by the Spencerian Chartier position, is always read after the first consonant.

Spencerian Chartier says write the vowel in writing the stroke.

There is no variation, hesitation, doubt.

In words of more than one syllable, in Spencerian Chartier, this first consonant and this first vowel are absolute, therefore, and sure.

If the word is longer than one syllable, the vowels are written with the subsequent strokes just as easily.

"Liable," for i stance, has the "L" in the "I" position, the vowel "A" expressed by a joined hook—which is always "A"—and the "ble," just as legible.

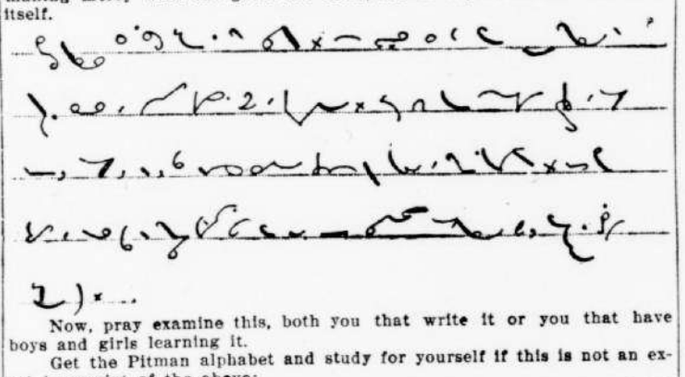
Omit the vowel signs in the Pitman system and you have "libel" as well as "liable," and many other words, and the context only can determine which is meant. If an initial vowel has to be written in Spencerian Chartier, it is written with a hook in its place, and it is read in the regular order.

Six children in the Sixth Reader studying Spencerian Chartier will be able to take dictation and read their notes fluently a month at least before six matured grown people, beginning Pitman system, can.

LITERAL TRANSLATION.

We want to give you here a literal translation of Pitman's Shorthand transcript of the words of P. T. Barnum, quoted for illustration in last week's article.

For fear, not acquainted with the system, you may think we are making merry with the great Sir Isaac, let us reproduce the shorthand itself.



Now, pray examine this, both you that write it or you that have boys and girls learning it.

Get the Pitman alphabet and study for yourself if this is not an exact transcript of the above:

"Sfrs bsns s consrnd iv a prt hb. M krax s tht vr ng prsn, f bth skses should lrn tlest shrnd and tprng, and hr u v mntl dspln and nj tog, nj, too, ths lmst srtn tsmtm b-convnnt and prkt xx avlbl. Ink consv tht wn hoo ns ths to brnchs thorle wl vr nd g hnggr in the prsnt jn, frthv a constntl widng s."

HONOR BRIGHT.

Now, Mr. Papa and Mrs. Mamma, that is precisely the thing the lad whom you have studying Pitman has written when he has correctly written this utterance of Barnum.

Honor Bright, do you think it is the fault of the lad or the lassie that after they have learned to write this, they must begin all over again and learn to read it?

Don't you see the long and tedious toil they have to do before they accustom their minds to guessing correctly what they have written?

Is it any wonder there are comparatively so few stenographers who are worth anything?

Suppose you received this note in longhand, as written, "sfrs bsns s consrnd iv a prt hb"—suppose your friend wrote you a note like that, in the unvarying characters of longhand, in all honesty, could you make out what he was trying to say?

It is for this reason that it takes one so long to learn to write Pitman and then so long to read it after he has been plugging away weary months to learn how to write.

Spencerian Chartier, vastly simpler, smoother, more flowing and prettier to write, spells out.

The reading power of any shorthand depends on its expressed vowels.

Spencerian Chartier defies the world to produce any system comparing with it in this reading power.

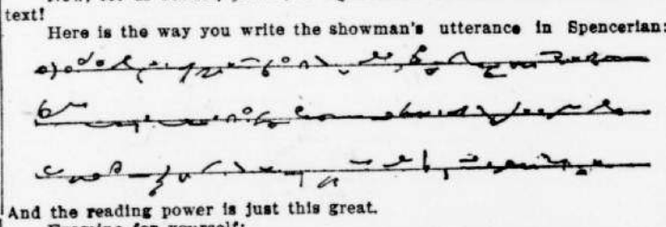
The Pitman system and all its off-shoots give you dots and dashes (heavy and light) in the different positions to indicate the vowels.

Try, if you can, to write in one when you are taking a speech or even rapid dictation.

These vowel dots and dashes are the very summit of impossibility.

Now, let us return, please, to Spencerian Chartier and our Barnum text!

Here is the way you write the showman's utterance in Spencerian:



And the reading power is just this great.

Examine for yourself:

"As far as bis is conserned iv a partikr hoby, my xras is that every yung persn of both sekses shud learn at lest shortand and tiprting. And her you v mentl dissipln and nolg togthr, nolg, to, that is alwas sert, at smtm to b convenent and pratktly avalabl. I kannt consev that one who nos thes to branchs thorly will hav ned to go hungry in the presnt genration, for tha v a constantly widning use."

Don't you think you would understand your small boy if he wrote you that way? Understand him thoroughly—exactly?

AN APPEAL TO PROFESSIONAL MEN, BUSINESS MEN, EVERYBODY.

If you should receive a book—one you had ordered—a treatise on your own particular calling or profession that presented the subject with as many rules and exceptions, as many different ways of doing the same thing, as many exasperating suggestions of doing impossible things, as many dodges to avoid imperfect rules, as the following page of rules, taken from Pitman, page 91, lesson 22, latest edition, would you not file it among your antiques?

From that page the teacher asks the following questions and requires the following answers:

Q.—In how many ways can you express "h" in Pitman?

A.—By an upward H, by a downward H, by an asperate tick and by a dot.

Q.—When is the downward H used?

A.—The downward H is employed when it stands alone or is followed by a simple K or g, and that in most other cases (MOST OTHER CASES) the upward form is used.

Q.—How is H written medially and how do you distinguish it from S?

A.—When H is written medially care must be taken to write the circle of the H so that it cannot be mistaken for the circle S.

Q.—When is the asperate H used?

A.—The downward H is contracted to a mere tick before S, M, L and R, and before the heavy letters, Z, mp and W.

Q.—Anything else?

A.—Yes. When convenient (WHEN CONVENIENT) the tick h may also be prefixed to a consonant hooked for R.

Q.—Have you any other way of expressing H?

A.—Yes, when the stroke H would be inconvenient, the asperate may be expressed by a light dot, placed before the vowel to be asperated.

Q.—Any other way to express H?

A.—Yes. In some of the Pitmanic systems you may thicken the W hook to express asperation, in such words as whale, whim, etc.

A GENERAL APPEAL.

I appeal to every man, woman and child in New Orleans who believes in progress; who believes that the electric car is an improvement on the old mule-car; who believes the electric light is more convenient and serviceable than the old tallow candle; who believes that the automobile is superior to the old-time wagon for ordinary transportation; who believes that the lightning express is superior to the old-time stage-coach for making a tour across the country; who believes in the "survival of the fittest," to stop, listen, think:

A few years ago when Spencerian Chartier Shorthand was in its infancy, there were business college men in this city who had the temerity to attack Spencerian Chartier Shorthand—synonymous with progress. To-day there is not a man to be found who is bold enough to deny a single truth in this article.

Four years ago, when the system was in its embryo state, it was furiously attacked in the highways and the byways, by the high and the low; by the tame and the vicious.

To-day there are more Business Colleges teaching the system than can be found using Isaac Pitman Shorthand.

In the last thirty days there have been more than twenty-five business colleges and high schools to adopt the Spencerian Chartier. In the past twenty days there have been FOUR business colleges in the city of Chicago alone that have recognized its irresistible tide and have sent orders for books. These were formerly Pitman schools.

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That, unlike the telegram, a telephone talk is a message sent and answer received?

That this is accomplished at one and the same time for the same price?

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CHARTER

OF NEW WILLARD NAVAL STORES COMPANY.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, STATE OF LOUISIANA, PARISH OF ORLEANS, CITY OF NEW ORLEANS.

Be it known, that on this, the fourth day of the month of February, in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and eleven, and of the independence of the United States of America the one hundred and thirty-fifth, before me, W. Morgan Gurley, Notary Public, duly commissioned and qualified, in and for the Parish of Orleans, State of Louisiana, therein residing, and in the presence of the witnesses hereinafter named and undersigned, personally came and appeared in several persons whose names are hereunto subscribed, all being of full age of majority, and who severally declare that, availing themselves of the provisions of the laws and constitution of this state, relative to the organization of corporations, they have contracted and agreed, and do by these presents contract and agree and bind and obligate themselves as well as such persons as may hereinafter become associated with them to form and constitute a body politic in law, for the objects and purposes and under the agreements and stipulations hereinafter following, which they adopt as their charter, to-wit:

ARTICLE I.

The name of this corporation shall be: NEW WILLARD NAVAL STORES COMPANY, and shall have corporate existence for the period of ninety-nine (99) years from the date hereof and shall have and enjoy for the purpose of the business to be carried on by it, all the powers conferred by law on similar corporations, including the power to make and use a corporate seal, and the same to break or alter at pleasure, to contract, sue and be sued in its corporate name, to hold, own, receive, purchase, sell, lease, convey, mortgage, hypothecate or otherwise encumber property, real and personal; to issue bonds, notes and other obligations, for the purpose of borrowing money, and to secure same by mortgage and otherwise; to name and appoint such officers, managers, directors, agents and other employees as the interests of said corporation may require and to suspend or remove same at the pleasure of said board, and to establish such by-laws, rules, and regulations as may be necessary and proper, and the same to alter, amend, or repeal at pleasure, and to generally do and perform all such acts as may be proper and necessary to carry out and execute the purposes of this corporation.

ARTICLE II.

The domicile of this corporation shall be in the City of New Orleans, State of Louisiana, but it may establish and operate factories, offices and agencies wherever it may deem advisable. All citation and other legal process shall be served on the President of this corporation, or in the event of his absence or inability to act, then upon the Vice-President.

ARTICLE III.

The objects and purposes for which this corporation is organized, and the nature of the business to be carried on by it are hereby declared to be the general turpentine and lumber business in all its various branches, and to that end to manufacture, purchase and sell turpentine, pitch, tar, rosin and naval stores; to acquire, own, construct and operate turpentine stills, sawmills, planing mills, driers and all machinery and appliances necessary in connection with the operation of said business, and to manufacture and sell any products of wood, such as sash, doors, blinds, trimmings, boxes, furniture and other articles of wood and its by-products. And furthermore to own and operate in connection with said business, tram-roads, logging-roads, sailing vessels, steam vessels, and other water-craft necessary for the transportation of its materials and products and also do a mercantile business.

ARTICLE IV.

The capital stock of this corporation is hereby fixed at fifty thousand ($50,000.00) dollars, divided into and represented by five hundred (500) shares of one hundred ($100.00) dollars each, which said stock shall be paid for in cash, or may be issued at par in payment for property actually purchased or services actually rendered to this corporation, which said stock shall be full paid and non-assessable.

The shares of this stock shall be transferable only on the books of this corporation, and no transfer of stock shall be binding or have any effect upon this corporation, unless and until made upon its books; and a prior lien on all shares shall be retained by this company on the stock of any shareholder for any indebtedness, secured or unsecured, however evidenced or created, due at any time to the company by the holder of said stock, and all transfers of stock shall be made subject to these conditions.

ARTICLE V.

All the corporate powers of this corporation shall be vested in, and exercised by a board of six (6) directors, who shall each be a stockholder in this corporation, a majority of whom shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of all business, and a majority vote at any meeting shall decide all questions voted upon.

Said directors shall be elected annually from the stockholders, on the first Tuesday of April of each year, after due notice of said meeting shall have been given to each stockholder, sent by mail to his last known address, ten days prior to the holding of said election, which said notice or any other notice required by this charter, may be waived in writing.

At said election, and all other meetings of the stockholders, the vote shall be by ballot, and each share of stock shall be entitled to one vote, to be cast by the owner in person or by written proxy. The majority of stock, voted at any stockholders' meeting, shall decide all questions voted upon except as otherwise provided.

Within one week from their election, as above provided for, the Board of Directors shall elect from among their members, a President and a Vice-President; they shall also elect a Secretary-Treasurer, who may, or may not be a member of the board, or a stockholder, at the discretion of the members of the board.

All the said officers and directors shall hold their respective offices for a period of one (1) year from the date of their election, or until their successors are duly elected.

The term of the first Board of Directors and officers herein named shall expire on the first Tuesday of April, 1911, or until their successors are duly elected as herein provided for. But the failure to hold an annual election, or to elect the officers as above provided for, shall not result in the dissolution of this corporation, but the then Board of Directors and officers shall hold their respective offices until their successors are duly elected.

Any vacancies occurring on said Board of Directors shall be filled by the remaining members of said board for the unexpired term, at a meeting called for that purpose after ten days prior notice in writing sent by mail to the said directors at their last known address, and if the said board fails to elect at said meeting, then the election may be made by the stockholders at a special meeting called for that purpose in the manner herein provided for the election of directors.

The said Board of Directors shall have the power to make all by-laws, rules and regulations for the proper management and conduct of the affairs of this corporation, and to change, alter, amend or abolish the same at pleasure, and shall have and exercise all the powers conferred by law on this corporation and as set forth in this charter.

The said Board of Directors may also delegate any of said powers in the transaction of the business of this corporation to committee of their own body, or to the officers and agents of this corporation.

All the employees of this corporation, except the office of President and Vice-President, shall be considered as employed by the month, unless specially contracted with in writing.

The first Board of Directors of this corporation is hereby declared to be: Walter B. Gillican, Latta M. Autrey, Edwin A. McKoy, J. Lewis Thompson, Alex. Thompson, Hoxie Thompson, with said W. B. Gillican as President the said L. M. Autrey as Vice-President, and P. A. Devlin, as Secretary-Treasurer, who shall hold their respective offices until their successors are duly elected and provided for.

It shall be the duty of the President of this corporation, or in the event of his inability to act, then the Vice-President, to call a special meeting of the Board of Directors of the stockholders, on a written request to that effect, signed by two or more directors, or upon a written request of ten per cent of the stock issued.

ARTICLE VI.

This corporation may be dissolved by vote of three-fourths (¾) of the capital stock thereof, at a general meeting convened for that purpose in the manner as above provided, for the calling of the meetings held annually for the election of the Board of Directors, except that in that event a notice in writing shall be sent to each stockholder thirty days prior to said meeting at his last known address. Whenever this corporation is dissolved, either by limitation or otherwise, its affairs shall be liquidated by three liquidating commissioners, to be elected at such general meeting, and in the case of death, resignation or inability to act of any of the said commissioners, the surviving commissioner or commissioners shall appoint a successor and together they shall continue the liquidation to its termination.

ARTICLE VII.

This charter may be changed or amended, and the capital stock may be increased or diminished by vote of two-thirds (2-3) of the capital stock, issued at a general meeting called for that purpose after thirty (30) days prior notice in writing having been sent to each stockholder at his last known address.

ARTICLE VIII.

No stockholder shall ever be held liable or responsible for the contracts or faults of this corporation or in any further sum than the unpaid balance due the company on the shares of stock owned by him, nor shall any mere informality in the organization hereof have the effect of rendering this charter null, or of exposing any stockholder to any liability beyond such unpaid balance that may be due on his stock.

Thus done and passed, in my office, in the City of New Orleans, Louisiana, on the day, month and year first above mentioned, in the presence of Pierre A. Lelong, Jr., and Lawrence M. Janin, competent male witnesses, here residing, who hereunto sign their names together with the said appearers and me, Notary, after due reading of the whole.

Original signed: W. B. Gillican, 248 shares; L. M. Autry, per W. B. Gillican, 1 share; E. A. McKoy, per W. B. Gillican, 1 share; Alex Thompson, per W. B. Gillican, 83 shares; Hoxie Thompson, per W. B. Gillican, 83 shares; J. L. Thompson, per W. B. Gillican, 84 shares.

Witnesses: P. A. Lelong, Jr., Lawrence M. Janin.

W. MORGAN GURLEY, Not. Pub.

I, the undersigned Recorder of Mortgages in and for the Parish of Orleans, State of Louisiana, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing act of incorporation of the "New Willard Naval Stores Company" was this day duly recorded in my office, in book 1018, folio 379. New Orleans, March 10, 1911.

(Signed) EMILE LEONARD, D. R.

I certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of the original act of incorporation of the New Willard Naval Stores Company, together with the certificate of the Recorder of Mortgages thereto appended, on file and of record in my Notarial Office in the City of New Orleans, State of Louisiana.

W. MORGAN GURLEY, Not. Pub.

Mch 23 30 apr 6 13 20 27 1911

The "Tea Leafer."

A good deal of the tea consumed by the working classes in the days when Arthur Young complained of the addiction to this luxury had never seen either India or China. In one of John Ashton's works on England he cites a case in which a boy charged with gambling stated that the money found in his possession had been made by picking tea leaves. This led to the discovery that many persons made a living by picking sloe leaves and whitethorn leaves in the fields near Camberwell and selling them to a local cowkeeper for a penny a pound. One man said he picked from fifty to sixty pounds a day and always found a market for them. The leaves were subsequently sold to a wholesale merchant, who obtained as much as 8 shillings a pound for them under the guise of tea. The merchant was prosecuted and fined, not for adulteration, but for defrauding the revenue. And the "tea leafer" is still the slang name for the petty thief.—London Standard.

Whims of Parrots.

"It is odd," said the bird store keeper, "but it is true, how people come into a bird store and expect to open up a conversation with a parrot offhand. They fail and then make up their mind that the parrot is worthless. This will apply to a majority of seekers after a talking parrot. They do not give the bird credit for the sense it actually possesses. There are parrots valued at anywhere from $50 to $500 that will not be coaxed into conversation with a stranger nor while he is present, although they are the very best of talkers. Parrots often refuse to perform when there are purchasers looking on, but once the store is clear of them they will chatter away through their whole vocabulary as if their very lives depended on their being heard. This obstinacy often spoils good sales. Most parrots will talk to a girl or woman much quicker and freer than to a boy or a man."—Browning's Monthly.

Have a heart that never hardens, and a temper that never tires, and a touch that never hurts.—Charles Dickens.