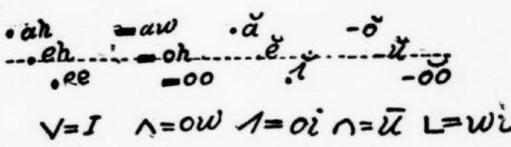


ANALYSIS

Pitman-Spencerian Chartier By J. M. REASER, Prin. Com'l Department



Figure 3



Among the foremost novelists of the world and time was Charles Dickens, a parliamentary shorthand reporter.

Like Robert Fulton's steamboat it was the first system—at least with the English speaking race.

The only difference is that Fulton's achievement is unquestionably the progenitor of our mighty ocean greyhounds, our battleships, our Lusitanias. Fulton's craft grew. The parent Pitman did not.

David Copperfield (which is, most of the time, simply a character used by Dickens for his own autobiography) thus describes the trials and tribulations of the weary and heart-rending time he had in learning Pitman.

"I bought an improved scheme of the noble art and MYSTERY of stenography, which cost me ten and sixpence, and plunged into a sea of perplexity that brought me, in a few weeks, to the confines of distraction. The changes that were rung upon dots, which, in such position, meant such a thing, and in such another position something else entirely different; the wonderful vagaries that were played by circles; the tremendous effects of a curve in a wrong place, not only troubled my waking hours, but reappeared before in my sleep.

It is a vivid and true picture of the struggles of the best and brightest minds who undertake, with this medium, to report so exacting and difficult a kind of work as debates and speeches—with this exception: SOME NEVER LEARN PITMAN, IN SPITE OF EFFORT. OTHERS NEVER ACQUIRE A FAMILIARITY WITH WHAT THEY WRITE SUCH AS TO ENABLE THEM TO TRANSCRIBE IT ACCURATELY AND FLUENTLY.

TO EXAMINE WHY THIS IS SO—TO LAY BEFORE YOU WHY IT IS NOT SO WITH THE WONDERFUL SPENCERIAN CHARTIER SYSTEM IS THE AIM OF THESE COMPARATIVE ANALYSES.

He was a scholarly thinker. In 1837 he published what he called "Stenographic Soundhand."

The system, the invention of a trained, logical and well-ordered intellect, reflects those intellectual qualities.

You can trace the mental process by which Sir Isaac devised the alphabet which once ruled the stenographic world.

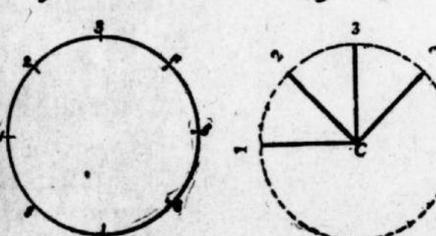
Sir Isaac, a graduate of the British Normal College, fell back on the eternally useful circle; the angle or slant of straight lines, and finally succeeded in composing an alphabet, itself easily remembered, but used as a shorthand system, presenting difficulties it requires months and years to master so thoroughly as to be able to take testimony, speeches, etc., with it. In some instances, a heavy percentage, this mastery is never attained.

Let's look into this, first tracing the steps of Sir Isaac's pioneer work, and then analyze why this system, having no reference to English spelling, to the ingrained habit of the mind by which people spell and write in longhand, requires so much study and work of the student of it before he can master it.

Sir Isaac took a circle and cut it up into as many parts as would enable one to use the segments or arcs as symbols for consonant sounds without confusion. This is indicated by the points checked off in the

Turn us to Figure 1

Figure I Figure II



- 1-7 = f: v 2-C = p: = b
2-8 = th: m 3-C = t: = d
4-6 = s: z 4-C = ch: = j
5-7 = sh: zh 1-C = k: = g
1-3 = r: m i-w (y) 6-h
8-6 = n: ng
3-5 = r

ACT OF INCORPORATION

OF SHELL BEACH CONSTRUCTION COMPANY.

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

Be it known, that on this 18th day of the month of December, in the year one thousand nine hundred and eleven, any of the independence of the United States of America the one hundred and thirty-sixth, before me, Alexis Brian, a notary public in and for the parish of Orleans, and the state of Louisiana, duly commissioned, sworn and qualified, and in the presence of the witnesses hereinafter named and undersigned, personally came and appeared the several persons whose names are hereunto subscribed, all of the age of majority, who declared that, availing themselves of Act 36 of 1888, as well as the General Laws of the state relative to the organization of corporations, they hereby form themselves into and constitute a corporation for the objects and purposes, and under the stipulations hereinafter set forth:

ARTICLE I. The name and title of this corporation shall be SHELL BEACH CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, and by that name it shall enjoy succession for the term of ninety-nine (99) years from the date hereof, unless sooner dissolved.

ARTICLE III.

The objects and purposes of this corporation shall be to purchase, cultivate, develop and dispose of by sale, lease or otherwise, real estate and lands in the parish of St. Bernard and elsewhere, as the board of directors may from time to time, determine; to construct drainage, shell or dirt roads, sewerage systems to dredge shells for commercial purposes, to build, operate and lease for operation dredges and ditches, to purchase or lease shell banks, maintain such warehouses, docks, wharves, railroad and tramway lines, and other transportation lines that may be found necessary or convenient for the proper development and carrying on of the company's business; to erect, maintain and operate telegraph and telephone lines, and generally to acquire by purchase, or lease, operate, sell and otherwise dispose of any and every species of property, real and personal, necessary or convenient to be so acquired and used in order to more effectively carry out the main design of the organization of the company, and particularly in connection with its real estate operations to acquire and operate dredges and boats.

ARTICLE IV.

The capital stock of this corporation shall be fixed at twenty-five thousand (\$25,000.00) dollars, divided into two hundred and fifty (250) shares of one hundred (\$100.00) dollars each, payable in cash, or its equivalent in property or labor.

ARTICLE V.

All the powers of this corporation shall be vested in a board of directors, composed of three members, two of whom shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. They shall elect from their number a president, vice-president and secretary and treasurer.

THE GREAT PITMAN'S DIFFICULTIES

Before we go any further in this analysis, and while you have the alphabet of the Pitman system fresh before you, let me give you another plate in order that we may make plainer our talk.

I pick this plate at random. It is a Pitman transcript of an utterance of the great showman, P. T. Barnum, and here is what he said, written in longhand:

"As far as business is concerned, I have a particular hobby. My orator is that every young person, of both sexes, should learn at least shorthand and typewriting. Here you have mental discipline and knowledge together, knowledge, too, that is almost certain at some time to be convenient and practically available. I cannot conceive that one who knows these two branches thoroughly will ever need to go hungry in the present generation, for they have a constantly widening use."

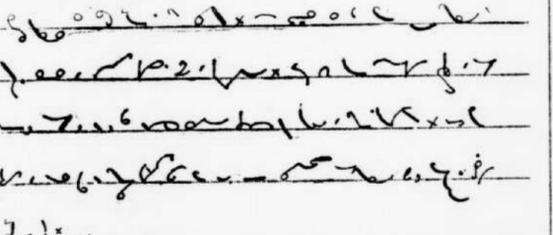
Know Pitman thoroughly! Truly P. T. is a humorist. P. T. was either ignorant of his subject or joking.

How many there be of these craftsmen in this city of almost 400,000 souls? Count them over—those who really answer P. T.'s description. You or anyone with the slightest sort of memory can learn that alphabet which has just been given and which, with endless use and practice, can enable one to do that speedily, but try, knowing this alphabet, to take a

speaker at 150 words per minute, and see how thoroughly you really know it.

See if you don't find your pencil with the same sort of fits that afflicted that of the great Dickens.

JOKER BARUM'S WORDS IN SHORTHAND



The above is the plate showing the transcript in shorthand of Barnum's point of view of shorthand. It is probably written by a man who answers Barnum's description, full of word-signs, correctly used—a perfect specimen.

First, let us call your attention to the fact that the vowel-signs are entirely eliminated—and believe me when you are taking a speech, you have no time for vowel-signs with Pitman shorthand. THE REASON WHY IT TAKES YOU SO MUCH PRACTICE TO MAKE THIS SYSTEM VALUABLE TO YOU IS THAT YOUR EYE, YOUR INSTINCT MUST BE TRAINED TO THAT YOUR EYES ALMOST SUPPLY THE INVISIBLE AND NON-EXISTING VOWELS. In fast writing you are forced to drop the vowels. We set forth here one proposition of shorthand which defies refutation.

It is elemental:—The reading power of any system is based on the percentage of vowel sounds you can indicate.

Here is another truism: ITS SPEED IS BASED ON THE SPEED WITH WHICH YOU CAN DO THIS.

From these two axioms it is impossible to get away.

Now, in this light—so clear and self-evident—let us get at the transcript of what Joker Barnum says, as transcribed in the Pitman system.

Notice, please, that the very first three words are written as a word-sign—the very first three words. These first three words are "as far as," and the Pitman system writes them "asf." There is not a hint of a vowel sound anywhere. In the positional Why should "as" be written in the first position and in the last position, and each time spell "as"? The accuracy of geometry is sadly deserted in this: "Fr," "far." Is there any possible reason, conceding for the sake of argument that the "fr" is in the first position, why this should not be "far," "afar," and since there is mere position visible, why it should not be "offer"? It is, however, "far" to the trained eye in Pitman, for the reason that that house there is a house to your familiar vision. In "business," position pretty well indicates the word. You have "bs" and "ns," and require no flight of imagination to make it out. "Pn" is conventionally in the second position, making it literally and meaningfully "open" with the "o" long, as in "mode" or "pone" (same long o) or "pala" (long a).

In short, the "pn" in the second position spells "upon," because it is conventionally so accepted. "Concerned" has a little bit of dot before the initial circle—a for "con," an "r" cut half its length, thus adding "d" and a little "n"—hook—still the "d," created by the shortening of the "r" is read after the "n"—hook. Here, then, are the consonant signs guiding the experienced eye, reading "concerned"—"constrnd." "iv" is the "tick" on top of the "v," and "is" is a word-sign for "have." "iv" in other words, is "I have." "A" is the dot in the first position. "Particular" is "p" shortened to half length to show that there is a "t" or "d" sound somewhere concealed about its person, and the "b" is begun with an "r"—hook, although the "r" is read after the "p." Literally, we have "rpt (or d)" spelling "particular." Another word-sign: "Hb" (vowel sounds to be guessed) "hobby." In a sentence of eleven words, thus, we have seven word-signs.

What now is really a word-sign? It is something that has to be learned and stored away in the memory. When the first eleven words of the man who says that his hobby is that every young person should learn shorthand "thoroughly," are found to contain seven words that have absolutely to be remembered, it is to be seen at a glance that he is either ignorant of what he is talking about, or has a large and expansive sense of humor. This system cannot be taken on and carried as a sideline. One who learns it has to dedicate himself to it as did Dickens. Another thing, this system cannot be mastered and allowed to rust. Speed, accuracy, a working order of the possession is maintained by constant practice and that alone.

There are sixty-eight words in the rest of what P. T. Barnum here said. There are over forty word-signs in this number. Capacious memory at this gait, don't you think, to know this language of lines and arcs and circles thoroughly—a big word-sign store-house necessary; and you cannot pause, you know, when you are writing 150 words a minute to recall how "I have been," "as far as," "that," "particular," etc., are written. Pitman is almost impossible with night students.

It is strange, almost remarkable, that an analytical genius such as must have been the mind that invented and evolved Pitman's system did not reflect that the two greatest impediments in his system were indicated unabated on all the men and women who studied and the comparatively few who mastered his system:

A lack of vowel power. A diminution of speed proportioned to the number of vowel signs used.

Net result—an absolute necessity of an enormous dictionary of word-signs.

A difficulty of mastery increased by every word-sign. A MULTIPLICATION, IN THE CASE OF EXPERTS, OF WORD-SIGNS SO GREAT AS TO MAKE THE WRITING OF EACH EXPERT A SYSTEM OF HIS OWN, BASED ON PITMAN, BUT PECULIAR TO THE WRITER AND ABSOLUTELY UNDECIPHERABLE BY ANY ONE ELSE.

As a matter of my own knowledge I know that Spencerian Chartier shorthand can be learned with one-fifth the study required for Pitman; it can be written faster than Pitman—it makes fewer strokes in writing any given matter—and it can be read with an ease never claimed for Pitman. In fact, people knowing the system, correspond in it and read each other's writing as though it were longhand or Roman print.

ARTICLE VI.

On the third Tuesday in February annually, beginning with the year 1913, there shall be held a meeting of stockholders, to elect directors for the ensuing year, which meeting shall be called after ten (10) days' notice; said notice to be deposited in the mail, postage paid, and directed to each stockholder, at his or her last known address. At said meeting said directors shall be elected by ballot, and a majority of the votes cast shall be necessary to elect, and each share of the stock shall be entitled to one vote, and the shareholder shall vote in person or by written proxy. Only shareholders shall be eligible as directors.

ARTICLE VII.

No stock shall be transferred except upon the books of the company. No stockholder shall be held liable for any contracts or debts of the corporation, in any further sum than the unpaid balance of his respective shares.

ARTICLE VIII.

This act of incorporation may be modified, amended or repealed, or said corporation may be dissolved by a vote of three-fourths of the stock represented at a general meeting held for that purpose after due notice shall have been given by publication for twenty (20) days in one of the newspapers published in New Orleans, and in the event of any such modification, amendment or repeal, the provisions of this act shall remain in force and effect until the termination of this act of incorporation, and in the event of any such modification, amendment or repeal, the provisions of this act shall remain in force and effect until the termination of this act of incorporation, and in the event of any such modification, amendment or repeal, the provisions of this act shall remain in force and effect until the termination of this act of incorporation.

ARTICLE IX.

This act of incorporation shall be modified, amended or repealed, or said corporation may be dissolved by a vote of three-fourths of the stock represented at a general meeting held for that purpose after due notice shall have been given by publication for twenty (20) days in one of the newspapers published in New Orleans, and in the event of any such modification, amendment or repeal, the provisions of this act shall remain in force and effect until the termination of this act of incorporation, and in the event of any such modification, amendment or repeal, the provisions of this act shall remain in force and effect until the termination of this act of incorporation.

ARTICLE X.

All of the corporate powers shall be vested in and exercised by the stockholders who shall be elected annually on the third Monday in January, and shall serve until their successors are elected and qualified. Said board shall have power to make by-laws, rules and regulations, and to do everything necessary and proper to carry out the objects and purposes for which this corporation is formed.

ARTICLE XI.

The capital stock of this corporation shall be thirty thousand (\$30,000) dollars, divided into three hundred (300) shares, full paid and non-assessable, of the par value of One Hundred (\$100) Dollars each, payable in cash or its equivalent, and no stockholder shall be liable for the unpaid balance of said stock until such stock shall have been subscribed.

ARTICLE XII.

The name of this corporation shall be the LOUISIANA BUILDING AND CONTRACTING COMPANY, and by that name it shall have power to contract, sue and be sued, to buy, sell, mortgage, hypothecate, lease and pledge property, both real and personal, and have and enjoy all the rights and powers granted to corporations by law.

ARTICLE XIII.

Said corporation shall exist for the period of ninety-nine (99) years unless sooner dissolved, which dissolution may occur at a meeting of the stockholders called for that purpose, by a majority of the said stockholders, and in the event of any such dissolution, the liquidation to be conducted by two commissioners named by the stockholders.

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The board of directors when elected shall immediately proceed to elect from their own number a president, a vice-president, and a secretary-treasurer.

All the corporate powers of this corporation shall be vested in and exercised by said board of directors, two of whom shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of all business, with the right to fill vacancies in their number, and to make and establish such by-laws, rules and regulations, for the proper management of the affairs of the corporation as may be necessary and expedient, and to change and amend the same at pleasure.

The first board of directors shall be composed of Madison Truman Woodward, as president, L. Leon Lowe, as vice-president, Jacob Bloch as secretary-treasurer, and George R. Haydel.

Which said board shall hold office until the first Monday in July, 1913, or until their successors are duly elected and qualified.

At the termination of the charter or dissolution of the corporation, the affairs shall be liquidated by the members of the board of directors as liquidating commissioners.

This act shall also serve as the original subscription list. Meetings of stockholders shall be held after ten days written notice to each stockholder.

Thus Done and Passed, in My Notarial Office at the City of New Orleans aforesaid, in the presence of Frank T. Suerman, and T. Joseph Dobbins, competent witnesses, who hereto subscribe their names, together with said parties and me, notary, on the day and date set forth in the caption hereof. (Original signed): F. T. Suerman T. J. Dobbins, Names of subscribers. W. W. YOUNG, Not. Pub.