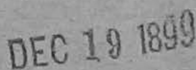

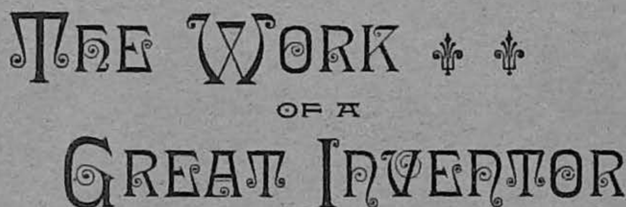

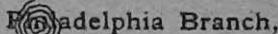

Philadelphia Branch,

THE HAMMOND TYPEWRITER CO.,

33 & 35 South 10th Street,

THOMAS F. HAMMOND, Manager.

Yours truly
Jas. B. Hammond.

The Work of a Great Inventor.

[From the New York Financier, December 12, 1898.]

HE personality of any one who performs a great achievement, and the way it has been accomplished, are subjects of absorbing interest. Among the finest fruits of civilization are those of inventive genius; and, accordingly, a sketch of the life and labors of a man who has done so much to emancipate mankind from the slavery of penmanship will be instructive to our readers. The accompanying portrait is from a recent photograph.

James Bartlett Hammond, inventor of the Hammond Typewriter, and President of the Company, is descended from the Puritans. His genealogical records run back, without a break on either side, to the early annals of New England. His paternal ancestor, Benjamin Hammond, son of William Hammond of London, arrived at Boston in 1634. His maternal ancestor was Richard Swan, another thrifty colonist then known in Massachusetts as an influential acquisition to the new community and a useful mem-

ber of the first Puritan Church in Boston, which he joined in 1639. Two hundred years thereafter, April 23, 1839, James B. Hammond himself was born in Boston. His education was begun in the public schools of his native city. Having won the Franklin medal at the Mather School in 1851, he entered successively the Boston High School and Latin School, and then Phillips Academy at Andover, where his preparation for college was completed in 1857. His name is now enrolled at the Academy with those of other scholars and inventors, including Morse, Farmer, and Clark, whose achievements have added to the honor of the country. He was duly graduated at the University of Vermont, with Phi Beta Kappa honors, in 1861.

Among other accomplishments incidentally acquired with his college course was the art of shorthand. Mr. Hammond soon became an expert phonographer; and to this circumstance is largely due his early connection with journalism and the subsequent invention of his typewriter.

During the winter vacation in his senior University year he made full reports of the lectures on the "Origin and Growth of the English Language and Literature," delivered by Hon. George P. Marsh at the Lowell Institute in Boston, which attracted much attention at the time. These reports were printed in the New York *World*, then lately started as a high-class semi-religious and literary newspaper. After graduation, charmed with the possibilities of journalism, he reported Henry Ward Beecher's sermons for the Boston *Traveller*. Subsequently he accepted

a regular engagement with the New York *Tribune*. As an army correspondent for that paper in the Civil War his accounts of the campaigns of the Army of the Potomac were accurate and picturesque. His experience in the field was crowded with adventures and vicissitudes. Among these the most exciting was his capture by a band of Mosby's guerrillas on the way from Winchester to Harper's Ferry with his letters and dispatches addressed to Horace Greeley. The preparations for hanging him, on the charge of "Writing abolition lies for Horace Greeley's paper," were interrupted by the sudden appearance of a squad of Federal cavalry; and in the skirmish that ensued he escaped and continued his journey to Harper's Ferry.

Mr. Hammond's war correspondence and other literary labors were interspersed or combined with scientific and philosophical investigations, especially the study of theology. This was a subject that obviously appealed to the strongest sentiments of his nature, for he recurred to it at every opportunity, and in 1865 was graduated at Union Theological Seminary in New York. Soon afterward he found congenial employment in religious editorial work, and rendered valuable assistance to the translator and annotator of Lange's German Commentary on St. Luke. When this volume was completed he sailed for Germany to extend his studies. These he pursued with zealous interest, chiefly at the University of Halle. His eager quest of knowledge, in and out of season, eventually undermined his health. Moreover, his mind was engrossed, and frequently

perplexed, with the seemingly impossible solution of the scientific and philosophical questions which occupied his thoughts. In this deplorable condition he returned to the United States, unfit for serious editorial work. Fresh air and outdoor exercise were now essential to his physical and mental strength, and in order to secure them he busied himself with surveying and improving some property at Hyde Park, Mass. Later on, by request of former associates on the Commentaries, he began the independent translation of the Book of Psalms. But he was uneasy and unsatisfied. One might infer that he may have drank too deeply at the German fountains of free thought, or gone adrift on the sea of speculation, bewildered by his own reflections on the infinite; at all events, having neither peace of mind nor pleasure in his work, he transferred his task to other hands and applied himself to business Whatever may have been his theological opinions, his inclination toward the ministry, or other evangelical pursuits, there was evident wisdom in his choice of a secular vocation At this critical period in his progress, the decision to thereafter devote his attention to the practical affairs of life was equivalent to a new revelation. Otherwise he might have become a theoretical enthusiast and a dreamer, a religious sentimentalist or a doubter, instead of a practical inventor and a worker, a logician and a rational believer, as well as a prosperous business man and a liberal scholar. It is clear that he had the right inspiration and had found the true turning point in his career.

Mr. Hammond had instinctively utilized his knowledge of stenography in his literary work; the waste of time and strength in writing out his shorthand notes suggested the idea of a mechanical substitute for chirography; and this necessity was the mother of his invention. Although the range of his studies had included mechanics, he had no practical experience in the use of tools, or skill in mechanical construction Yet the idea of creating a labor-saving substitute for penmanship had been revolving in his mind for years before putting it in practice, and before he had any knowledge of the efforts of others with a similar aim. When the mechanical problem had taken possession of his mind, he resolved to follow it to the end; and while the Hammond was not the first writing machine on the market, the sequel has shown that he had found the correct scientific principles and was working in the right direction.

But the road to success was long and hard. For fifteen years no substantial results crowned his labors. It is pathetic to contemplate the sufferings, disappointments, and discouragements that stood in the way of his final achievement. Neither poverty, illness, advice of friends, nor unfavorable opinions of professional scientists and practical experts could alter his purpose. He was still tormented by the acute neuralgia from which he has suffered, with only occasional relief, since his first return from Europe. But, with the abiding faith in the ultimate usefulness of the machine he had already constructed in his mind, he persevered with his experiments, involving intricate details and mar-

vellous patience. Like the sculptor, who has formed in his fancy the beautiful image he is cutting out of the marble, Mr. Hammond's intellectual vision had foreseen the essential features and design of the exquisite instrument which accurate construction, in the skilful combination and adjustment of its parts, has brought to such perfection.

Meanwhile another typewriter appeared, constructed on an entirely different plan—that on the type bar principle invented by Sholes and Glidden, and manufactured by the Remingtons—but this did not shake Mr. Hammond's confidence in the supremacy of his own design. Although his machine was yet unfinished, he continued his experiments for several years. At length he had so far succeeded to his own satisfaction that in 1880 he took out his preliminary patents. The first official public appearance of the Hammond was in the winter of 1884–85 at the New Orleans Centennial Exposition, where it came in competition with the Remington and the Caligraph, and carried off the honors by winning the gold medal. Since then its competitive trials have been a succession of triumphs. It has fairly won the medals received from all the important Expositions at home and abroad. Perhaps the most significant of these was the Elliott Cresson gold medal bestowed by the Franklin Institute of Pennsylvania, after a critical examination of the different styles of standard machines on the market. This award was conferred at the instance of the Committee on Science and the Arts, whose elaborate report in conclusion stated: "Celerity and certainty of operation, perfec-

tion of alignment, and great durability in service, are meritorious features which the Hammond machine possesses in an eminent degree and the sub-committee commend it as the best typewriting machine that has come to their knowledge. The Committee believe that the invention of the impression and feeding mechanism, and especially of the unique principle of letter selection, as well as the perfection attained in the construction of this instrument, are deserving of the highest award in the gift of the Institute."

Hence The Hammond Typewriter is not a development or an improvement of other inventions, but is original in design and detail. Its fundamental scientific principles are distinctively its own. Highly commended over others for its beauty, uniformity and completeness of impression, rapidity and ease of operation, simplicity of parts and their skilful combination, strength and durability, compactness and lightness—in proclaiming itself, modestly by its merits, "the survival of the fittest," "for all nations and tongues," it is fearless of future competition.

Among all the awards of merit that Mr. Hammond has received within half a century, two of them invite attention, independent of coincidence: the Franklin medal from the Mather School, in 1851, for the signs of promise in his boyhood days, and the Cresson medal from the Franklin Institute, in 1891, for the fruition of his genius in later years.

The Hammond Typewriter is undoubtedly the best on the market. It has been used in this office for

the past ten years in competition with other leading makes, and we have found that no other machine has such perfection of mechanical finish in exactness, ease of movement, and general fine workmanship of the highest grade. It is eminently the gentleman's or lady's typewriter, as distinguished from those of ruder construction. Besides, it outwears all others, and its wearable parts can easily be renewed at a low cost. No other typewriter so fully and usefully keeps abreast of the times. Mr. Hammond, its inventor, every year or less has brought forward some signal improvement or useful adjunct, which makes the latest machine away ahead of its predecessors in beauty, finer work, or newer fields of usefulness. As the Hammond has either kind of keyboard, it to-day has no point of inferiority to any other make; instead, it has so many points of superiority that no contemplating buyer of a typewriter should fail to examine it. These words are complimentary, and have been written from a personal sense of appreciation of the valuable work Mr. Hammond—whose portrait and a life sketch appear on another page—has given to the world.