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VERTICAL WRITING.

VERTICAL WRITING is here. It is here to stay. It is here to compete with other systems. It is here to combat the idea that writing that slants much is best. It is here to demonstrate that writing that slants but little is better than that which slants a great deal. It is here to prove that writing may slant backward as well as forward. It is here to show that writing that slants but little is more legible and faster than that which slants much. It is here to prove by precept and example that practical writing may slant much or little to suit the individuality of the writer. It is here to prove that 52° is not the natural slant for all, and that it is not the slant that is most natural for the majority. In fact it has already convinced all who are not prejudiced unduly that 52° is an extreme slant rather than a standard for all. Vertical writing is here to teach us to be tolerant toward new reforms—to teach us that there is no one way for all—to prove to us that handwriting should vary as much as human speech, dress, and walk.

As promoters of good, sensible writing, it behooves us as Zanerians to recognize these things when they are far more plain to be seen than the noses on our faces. For investigation as well as experiment has demonstrated conclusively that slant is not a very important factor in writing except as it effects legibility. And it does not seriously affect that until it passes the 45° limit. Experiment has undeniably proved that vertical writing admits of arm movement as well as any slant writing. It is no more a finger movement system than any other, if as much. Those who declare that it is a finger movement system also declared five years ago that the Spencerian (the models these same chronic croakers cleverly appropriated) was a finger movement system. Their own testimony, taken during the past five years, testifies to the fact that any system is finger movement if you are foolish enough to write it that way. If you would believe all they say you would conclude that Almighty God made the arm movement and his adversary made the finger movement. When the facts are, we have to work pretty faithfully to get either, and especially the former. We are of the opinion that the fingers were made for use as well as the arm, and whenever they can be used to advantage in writing we propose to so use them. And we have yet to hear of any enthusiast of simon-pure muscular movement who is willing to shed his fingers because he can write better without them.

Vertical writing is here to stay. And it does not propose to paralyze fingers by overworking them, nor by allowing them to loaf away the precious moments and wither away from inactivity.

Vertical writing is here to serve the various inclinations and tastes of the people. It is here to serve them, and not that they should serve it. It proposes to make writing easier for the child and more practical and individual for the adult. It is intended as a good thing to start the child with, and as a good thing for him to modify to suit his inclinations as he grows older. It is undeniably better for childhood, and time is necessary to prove that it is not best also for adults—for the child when he becomes a man. By vertical is meant that kind of writing which slants less than 20° to the left or right of the perpendicular.

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