

From The Educator, October 1932.....Joe Vitolo

H. A. Howard

Most of our readers are familiar with the firm name, Howard and Brown, of Rockland, Me. All of our readers have been following that inimitable work turned out regularly each month by E. L. Brown, but few of our younger readers are familiar with H. A. Howard, who for about 40 years has been a partner of Mr. Brown. The following information will be of interest to our readers as well as the specimens of Mr. Howard's work and his photograph:

While quite young H. A. Howard became interested in penmanship, and received a copy of the Penmen's Gazette, published by G. A. Gaskell, author of Gaskell's Compendium. It contained specimens of the writing of W. E. Dennis and A. N. Palmer. He understood that they were teaching in the Bryant & Stratton Business College at Manchester, N.H., so he packed his grip and set out for that mecca where so many penmen received their start. Mr. Howard arrived at night and could not wait until morning, so enrolled in the evening school. It was a bitter disappointment, however, when he learned that A. N. Palmer had just left for a position in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and W.E. Dennis, advertised as the boy wonder, was at his home in Keene, N. H. A slender curly haired young fellow, in shirt sleeves, was writing copies, and he asked his seat mate who he was. "That's Madarasz," he said. He wrote Mr. Howard some copies which he still has in an old scrap book. They were rather ornamental for business writing but no penman could improve on the capitals today, and he then and there determined to become a penman. Three years later, while attending the Rockland High School, Mr. Howard was asked by L. A. Barron, then proprietor of the Rockland Commercial College, to assist him in organizing and teaching evening writing schools, for this was during the period of the writing master. Their first school was in the village of South Thomaston. Through the assistance of Herbert M. Lord, the High School teacher, who later became Director General in the Philippines, and afterwards took charge of Uncle Sam's Budget, their school was a great success.

The following winter they conducted schools in Thomaston, Warren and Rockport, and it was at the latter place that he first met Edwin L. Brown his present partner and coworker for more than forty years.

After completing his High School course, Mr. Howard was offered a position as teacher in the Rockland Commercial College, and later purchased an interest in this school, being joined by Edwin L. Brown.

He taught commercial branches thirty-six years. Twelve years ago they discontinued their school to devote their entire time to what was then a side line: diplomas and engrossing. They have built up their present business with customers in every state, Canada, and many foreign countries.