

and higher elements of life; and, moreover, in proportion as the energies of men are attracted in this direction, there is less of power wasted in the direction of pampered passion and sordid self-indulgence. Thus, whatever facilitates the processes of life, not only tends to the actual lengthening of life, but also to making life fuller and more elevated.

What is true of improved methods in other matters, and in general, is doubtless to some extent true of the matter of writing, or the written expression of language: so that the growing feeling in favor of a more natural orthography and a briefer chirography is not only fully justified on the popular ground of greater convenience, but also on the broader and higher grounds of true human progress.

The old method of spelling is irregular and capricious to an extraordinary degree. It requires years of the most tiresome study, and is never fully mastered. The old method of writing is clumsy and cumbrous, requiring probably four times as much of muscular labour, of time and of space as is really necessary. These things are felt to a large extent even at present; for writing has become more or less a necessity in every department of business and study; and as the circumstances of life become more refined and elevated, the uses to which writing is applied are likely to be even more extensive, and the need of a better system more widely appreciated.

LINEAR PHONOGRAPHY.

The term *Phonography* (*sound writing*) is applied to a method of writing in which the natural sounds, elements of the voice, used in speaking, are each represented by distinctive marks.

The task attempted in this sketch is to propose a system of writing that would be Phonetic in the full and natural sense of the word; which would be natural not alone in repre-

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