

# The Phonetic Herald

DEVOTED TO ORTHOEPY AND ORTHOGRAPHY.

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## EXPEDIENTS FOR LONG E.

There are at least twenty-two ways of representing the sound of long e, as in *eel*, viz:

1,	by e	as in <i>he</i> ,	pronounst	he
2,	" i	" <i>invalid</i> ,	"	invalid
3,	" ca	" <i>heal</i> ,	"	hal
4,	" ea e	" <i>heave</i> ,	"	hev
5,	" i e	" <i>machine</i>	"	mashen
6,	" i-ue	" <i>intrigue</i>	"	intreg
7,	" ie	" <i>thief</i>	"	thef
8,	" i-e	" <i>grieve</i>	"	grev
9,	" ei-	" <i>conceit</i>	"	conset
10,	" ei-c	" <i>receive</i>	"	resiv
11,	" uay	" <i>quay</i>	"	ke
12,	" ey	" <i>key</i>	"	ke
13,	" eo	" <i>people</i>	"	pepl
14,	" ui	" <i>mosquito</i>	"	meskito
15,	" ee	" <i>feel</i>	"	fel
16,	" e-e	" <i>complete</i>	"	complet
17,	" ee-e	" <i>sleeve</i>	"	slev
18,	" ea-ue	" <i>league</i>	"	leg
19,	" cau	" <i>Beauchamp</i>	"	Becham
20,	" æ	" <i>Cæsar</i>	"	Szær
21,	" œ	" <i>œtus</i>	"	fetus
22,	" aiu	" <i>Caius College</i> ,	"	pro-

nounst, odly enuf, Kæz Colej.

The need of a separate new letr for this sound becomes manifest. Whether it shal be e, e, j, or some stil betw one iz matr ov opinion, taste, and detail. It iz like a workman with but 5 tools when 13 ar needed. Tu saw a beard he must uze a *file*, a *chisel*, and a *hatchet*; and then make a botch ov it. Look at *league*, a word ov but 3 sounds. Insted ov having a letr for each sound and speling it l-e-g, the foloing tinker ing botch ov a proces iz gone thru, resulting in a word ov 6 letr, l-e-a-g-u-e: as l-e-g wud be mistaken for 'leg,' it iz first speld l-e-a-g; but e-a so often stands for short e as in h-e-a-d, that it must be made dubly sare by puting a

silent e after g; this agen leading tu a false pronunciation, 'lej', by making g soft, a u must be put after the g tu keep it hard!! We then hav a word whose form we must remember like the Chinese with their arbitrary characters, having this differens, however, that ours iz partly arbitrary, partly reasonable. We wish the arbitrary element reduced tu a minimum, the rational increast gradually til it shal become the controlling principl. We shal then spel az we speak, orthografy having become the representation ov the spoken word, each sound having a definit letr tu correspond. Until that iz ataind aproximatly, English must continyu tu be, in the words ov a scolar, "the worst-speld langwej in the world."

## WORD STUDIZ.

**BEAUTY.**—The old form of this word appears tu hav been comonly *beutie*.—Some medlsome etymologist, with a smatring ov French, took it for granted, misled perhaps by the eye-apearans, or speling, that it came from the French *beau*, meaning fine, and pronounst bo. Hens the a was inserted. In meaning *beau* and *beutie* ar alied, but so far az sound goz they ar not. At the end ov the word, insted ov dropping silent e only, further medlsomnes haz changed i tu y, altho i iz retaind in the cognate word 'beautiful,' while neither i nor y iz found in 'beauteous! It wud hav been betw. shorter, and simpler if we had *beuti*, *beutiful*, and *beutius*—at the same time the true etymology wud be indicated. Both the mid and the final changes, being innovations comparatively modern, the one a blunder, the other a departure from simplicity, shud be abandond.