

ing e. *Scaft* is now *shaft*; *bisceop* is now *bishop*. So *sciran* was Saxon for *share* or *sheer*. Thus c had then a sound almost sh.

Therefore it is no novelty in our loved tongue that I suggest: restrict c to tsh. We gain in brevity if we put "curc" for *church*. A "curl" would no longer nestle in a fair lady's neck: he would be answered according to his folly; but the innocent and pretty "kurl" would retain its place of honor and delight. There is difficulty in getting made moderate changes. This may be deemed revolutionary; but in these fast times brevity commends itself. If we can throughout wed accuracy to brevity we may sooner succeed in recommending a better because briefer way.

Ryton-on-Tyne, Eng. [Rev.] H. R. RAE.

[If Mr R's suggestion be taken, word-forms like these would appear in New Spelling:
witch catch patch much churn chart cart
wic kac pac muc curn cart kart
cheap teach pitcher ditch match chamber
cip tic picer dic mac camber]

OBITUARIES.

CHARLES COLLINS died at Dayton, Ohio, on 13th Oct., aged 88. He graduated with high honors at Hobart College, Geneva, N. Y., and was language tutor there for some time. His treatise on Latin orthoepy did much to have its continental method adopted in U. S. colleges.—*Phonog's Magazine*. In spelling reform for which he wrote numerous articles he was a moderate, holding that ten vowel signs were enough with six digraph consonants, tho not quite the usual six.

Right Hon. Prof. MAX MÜLLER died at Oxford, Eng., on 28th Oct., aged 77. For fuller obituary notice readers are referred to other journals. Three times since 1850 linguists have essayed alphabetic problems: (1) that in the early fifties when Müller with Lepsius and Chevalier Bunsen were leading spirits; (2) that by British-American filologists, 1876 to 1883, when Joint Rules were agreed to; (3) the present one by the International Phonetic Association. While all three were on orthoepy-phonetic lines mainly, the alphabetarian has much to learn to harmonize in their results. In Müller's lectures at the Royal Institution, 1861-4, constituting his two-volume *Lectures on the Science of Language*, he demonstrated and put phonetics as a basis for linguistics:

"I have sometimes been blamed for having insisted on Phonetics being recognized as the foundation of the Science of Language. Prof. Benfey and other scholars protested against the chapter on phonetics in my "Lectures," as an unnecessary innovation, and protests have become stronger of late. But here, we must distinguish between two things. Filologic or General Phonetics are, I hold as strongly as ever, an integral part of the Science of Language; Dialectal Phonetics may be useful here and there, but they should be kept within their proper sphere; otherwise, I admit as readily

as any one else, they obscure rather than reveal the broad and massive colors of sound which language uses for its ordinary work."—On Spelling.

Before this revolution in filology which he heralded early, dead letters, symbols, were considered the elements of language. No, or very little, attention was paid to actual speech phenomena, the living soul of these dead symbols. For better word-forms after decided endorsement of their necessity:

"In 1857 he first became associated with the reform of English spelling, accepting the position—with Pitman, Ellis and others—of adjudicators of essays on spelling reform for which Sir Walter Trevelyan offered valuable prizes. He wrote a letter to Sir Isaac Pitman indicating great interest in the phonetic movement, and saying that reformed spelling was sure to be bro't about ultimately. It led to a long correspondence and personal friendship, terminated only by Pitman's death. . . . On Trevelyan's death in 1879, Prof. M. became president of the Phonetic Society. . . . A most important contribution was his article On Spelling (*Fortnightly Review*, April, 1876) appearing in successive editions of his 'Chips from a German Workshop.'"—Pitman's Journal.

NEWS-NOTES AND COMMENTS.

—The customary guinea was paid lately to a Toronto gentleman who pointed out a misprint of "cut" for "out" in an edition of the bible printed at the Clarendon press, Oxford.—Moral, c is faulty because so liable to be mistaken for o, which typesetters confirm. Is it wise to add a differential to the group c, e, o (too much alike already)? That increases liability to misprints.

—Divergence of pronunciation causes alarm. Some Americans glory that they do not speak with a "British accent." It would be a calamity were this carried farther, for a link binding the Anglo-Saxon race wherever found would be seriously weakened. Unity of our language is imperiled at home as well as abroad. The cheap and rapid traveling tends to assimilate pronunciation even among educated men, hardly two speakers will sound every word alike. The reason for this (want of uniformity) is lack of a recognized standard. A vivacious American lady inquired in a London contemporary what was the authority for English pronunciation. Her question has remained unanswered.—*Liverpool Mercury*.

—Our namesake, *Præco Latinius* (The Latin Herald), published at 1520 Spring Garden st., Philadelphia, Pa., 16 pages monthly, \$1 a year, is printed throughout in Latin, without use of j, but with u. It holds that the world has still in Latin a universal language.

—The Cree Indians have a syllabary (invented by James Evans) instead of an alphabet. It is so simple that Crees learn to read in a week. A Cree translation of Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress* has just been printed in Toronto for their use.

—"Spelling Reform by Dr E. B. Andrews, Chancellor of the University of Nebraska, and late Superintendent of Public Schools in Chicago" is the title of an article of five pages in the *Junior Munsey* magazine for October—a strong article that gives us 'the progress and prospects of the movement to simplify English orthography and the practical benefits it promises.' The editor says: "Dr Andrews, who is one of the best known of American educationalists, favors reform as thorough and speedy as is practicable. He favors it because it promises real and substantial benefits. For instance, measured in money, the annual saving to the public school system of a city like Chicago would be at least \$300,000. In this article—