

The 16 vowel signs ar got by diacritic dots and strokes above a, e, i, o, u. New consonants ar got by tag *at botm* of six consonants. Javal's experiments show this to be optically rong. For ng, the tail of g is put to n. The usual sign (j) is preferabl. Dropt r is indicated. It is beter always to put r in print tho many do not sound it. The rule givn by Passy is correct for such to be guided by: "r is mute before a consonant."

Another objectionabl featur is that a, e, i, o, u ar assignd their values in *an, ell, ill, on, up*—a national insted of a cosmopolitan basis. We had hopes that B. wud giv a scheme of which we might exclaim *Eureka!* We ar disappointed.

—*The Principles of Eng. Etymology* is the title of Prof. Skeat's new book (Clarendon Pres, 1887). It discuses deriva'n from *sound principls* insted of the superseded study of the representa'n of letters—a word is a word to the *ear*, not the *eye*—the modern basis of etymology. This volume is calld "First Series" and deals with "the nativ element" (which appears to include Scandian and Celtic.) In a proposed "2d Series" the imported element is to be considerd. While the hole volume is excelent, chapters xvi. and xvii. ar specially valuabl to advocats of Amended Sp. As they giv the fonic elements and history of our spelling, showing how largely it was due to pedants (from the Tudor period on) who insinuated etymology *ofn fanciful* and since proved eroneus. The chapters specified brisl with inferences of this kind, many of which ar actualy pointed out by the author who hits hard and strait from the sholder at that. It has been non for years that first-clas etymologists wer on our side. It is now high time for the third-clas dabblers in it to see the propriety of shutting up. Of cours it wil take the more ignorat of them a ful twenty years to lern how much advance has been made while they wer having their self-complacent Ripvan-Winkl sleep.

CONTRACTIONS.

No reader shud be so stupid as to confound contractions with Amended Spellings: they ar essentially distinct. Yet Orthograpy, or the representation of spoken sounds, must take cognisance of Contractions. Such ar establishd in Orthog. The apostrofe (') while the sign of posesiv case is also the acnolegd sign of elision, usualy in midl of a word; while the period denotes the same at end of a word. When letters ar omited from mid-word, it is beter to put the part coming after the omision above the *line*—redily done in riting, but not in print becaus our printers seldom hav such letters, named "Superior" Letters, tho stil comon in French. With us they wer formerly much more used than now. The Shorthand Con-

gres, last year, did good service in apointing a comitee to draw up a list of Contractions for reporters and other riters for the pres as uniformity in such is needed among riters and typesetters. We giv the revized list belo, clipt from Pitman's *Jurnal*, and foloing it is part of the comitee's report put, for illustration, in contracted form with Revized Speling and use of &, alredy establishd: as meaning *and*. Of cours the typeseter "spels out" in ful any contractions he may meet in his "copy." They ar for riters, not general readers.

- \* r = termination *ever*, as how<sup>r</sup>, which<sup>r</sup>.
- ° at end of verb = *ing*, as com<sup>g</sup> coming.
- " = termination *tion, sion, or ion*.
- ce " *ance, ence.*
- m<sup>t</sup> " *ment.*

- Omit *day* in days of week, as *Mon* Monday.
- t the h<sup>d</sup> had
- | that imp<sup>ce</sup> importance
- f for imp<sup>t</sup> important
- o of lge large
- h have mt<sup>g</sup> meeting
- y you m<sup>t</sup> might
- w with m<sup>g</sup> morning
- ab<sup>t</sup> about notw<sup>g</sup> notwithstanding
- acc<sup>t</sup> account obj<sup>n</sup> objection
- aft<sup>n</sup> afternoon o'clock
- ag<sup>n</sup> again op<sup>n</sup> opinion
- ag<sup>t</sup> against opp<sup>y</sup> opportunity
- am<sup>g</sup> among o<sup>r</sup> other
- am<sup>t</sup> amount o<sup>t</sup> ought
- bec because bro<sup>t</sup> brought
- h<sup>n</sup> been tho<sup>t</sup> thought, &c.
- btwn between part<sup>r</sup> particular
- c<sup>d</sup> could q<sup>n</sup> question
- ch<sup>m</sup> chairman s<sup>d</sup> said
- circ<sup>ce</sup> circumstance sev several
- com<sup>t</sup> committee sh shall
- dif<sup>ce</sup> difference sh<sup>d</sup> should
- dif<sup>t</sup> different th<sup>r</sup> their, there
- dif<sup>eh</sup> difficult tho though
- dif<sup>ehy</sup> difficulty thro through
- xtr<sup>y</sup> extraordinary togr<sup>r</sup> together
- ev<sup>g</sup> evening v<sup>y</sup> very
- ev<sup>y</sup> every wh<sup>r</sup> whether
- f<sup>m</sup> from wh<sup>h</sup> which
- fur<sup>r</sup> further w<sup>t</sup> without
- gen<sup>t</sup> general w<sup>d</sup> would
- gov government yest<sup>y</sup> yesterday
- g<sup>t</sup> great y<sup>r</sup> your

"A lge propor<sup>n</sup> o ordinary composi<sup>n</sup> consists, as is wel non, o same words over & over. F these words reporters habitually use contrac<sup>ns</sup> o w<sup>h</sup> literary men h not as yet h<sup>d</sup> advantage. F<sup>m</sup> comparisons btwn | quantitis o manuscript w<sup>h</sup> can be product by fast riters w & w<sup>t</sup> reporters' contrac<sup>ns</sup>, it w<sup>d</sup> appear t | sav<sup>g</sup> in time thus attainabl am<sup>ts</sup> to f<sup>m</sup> 20 to 30 per cent.

"It appears t much inconvenience is caused by | vary<sup>g</sup> & inconsistent contrac<sup>ns</sup> o dif<sup>r</sup> riters f | Pres. One uses "t" f the w<sup>h</sup> amor