

# NEW SPELLING

The inconsistency in spelling is explained by some of the hymns being copyrighted, liberty to use them being granted only on condition that not an iota, even in punctuation, be changed. It is in such hymns that better forms like "distress" occur. Had the compilers rectified those where they had option they would have deserved greater commendation, without a feeling of disappointment at this inconsistency and the likelihood of improvement.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

### EASY TO READ—AGENT-NOUNS—NOTATION

SIR: I find that your Amended Spelling is wonderfully easy to read—just as easy as common spelling. When I examine it as critic, like a proofreader, I am surprised at the multitude of words affected mostly for the better. Beforehand I could hardly have believed this possible with so little shock.

The use of *er* final as general ending for agent-nouns is new to me. It simplifies. It makes *barrister* agree in ending with *solicitor* better than with *solicitor*. I like *governor*, *visitor*, etc. I consider this a real step forward.

Your notation of orthoepy is expressive, yet so simple that it can be used by any printer. Why not restore *þ* for *th* in *thin*, as well as *ð* for *th* in *thine*?

Horseheads, N. Y.

E. McNAIR,

[The necessity for *þ* is not half as much as for *ð*; nor is *þ* equal to *ð* in legibility. Besides, "the line must be drawn somewhere."—EDITOR.]

### TENNYSON'S SPELLINGS

SIR: In the *HERALD* for October, 1897, I called attention to our prose classics having instances of amended spelling as well as classic verse, specifying Carlyle. Tennyson, in his letters at any rate, did the same as in his verse. Frequent examples of this occur in *Memoirs of Tennyson* by his son (McMillan, 1898), as in vol. ii, p. 184, may be found, *tho'*, *pain'd*, *mention'd*, *call'd*, in eleven lines of large print. These forms with apostrophe omitted are the same as are found in your pages.

Toronto.

A. E. H.

### FIXT SPELLING—DUBL LETTERS—K—TH

SIR: I am glad that spelling reformers at last have an organ wherein common sense prevails. New spelling must be put before people gradually, and all questions of phonetics dropped. If you enter into them, you will find that each has his own peculiarities of speech, which he would want to express in every one of his writings. As result, no two spell alike. I point to communications in *Le Maître Phonétique* as examples.

You discard double letters [almost] entirely.

In stress [stopt] syllables they have their uses and should be retained. In unstressed ones the consonant should not be doubled, as *excellent*, in which I would emphasize *e* before it and shift stress to the second syllable.

*K* is constant; *c* is variable. To be consistent we should drop *c*. This would yet be too radical. We could however lay down the rule that the palatal sound be represented by *c* before *a*, *o*, *u*, and by *k* before *e*, *i*. I would not change *th*, though one feels like substituting *dh* for the sound *ð*.  
Meridian, Miss. (REV.) W. WILLNER.

## NEWS-NOTES AND COMMENTS.

—France has a dialect society, the *Société des Parlers de France*, whose president is M. Gascon Paris, of the *Académie Française*, which is collecting legends and songs in all parts of France by means of the fonograph.

—The *Cosmopolitan* for March proposes that an artificial world-language be made. To this end it devotes \$12,000. Our own language might be made a world-language for which it is well-suited—better than any artificial tongue—but for its abominably irregular spelling, its literary dress. More about this will appear in next issue.

—Funk & Wagnalls still follow this rule in most of their publications: "Change *d* or *ed* final to *t* when so pronounced, except when the *e* affects a preceding sound." This has provoked vehement opposition from the "*New York Sun*," "*Providence Journal*," and some other papers. In "*The Voice*" for 11th February last, its publishers, Funk & Wagnalls, reply to several criticisms under the title, "Is Simpler Spelling a Mere Fad?" This has brought out in succeeding issues a crop of communications endorsing Simpler Spelling. In that of 3rd March, the president of the University of California, and Dr Lamb, Washington, D. C., express opinions decidedly favorable. Would it not be well for all friends of the Reform to be on the alert to reply personally to any attack on the Reform that they see in the press? Agitation is education, and a great deal of education will be necessary before this Spelling Reform will prevail against the dense prejudice and ignorance that oppose it.

## WORD-REGISTER.

SPELLING AMENDED	PROPOSED ORTHOGRAPHY	COSMOPOLITAN ORTHOEPY
advance	advans	ad.vans'
and	—*	ænd
Arkansa	—	ark'an.sa' -sô'
Bismarck	—	bis'mark-
Cowper, poet	—	cūp'ər.
Dreyfus	—	dra-fūs' -fūs'
from	—	frôm
front	frunt	frənt
frontier	fruntir	frənt'ir frənt'ir
forehed	fərhed	fə'hed- fored.
Kewitsch	—	ke-witf'
Leipzig	—	laip'tsif-
Liebig	—	li'bif-
Spieser	—	sp'zər.
tsar	—	tsar, zar
Viotor	—	fr'e.tōr-
with	wið	— wiþ
<i>Le Maître Phonétique</i>	l <sup>o</sup> met' r <sup>o</sup> fon-a-tik'	

\*A dash (—) means "same as the preceding."