

The Herald.

DEVOTED TO PRONUNCIATION AND AMENDED SPELLING.

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OUR CASE IN BRITAN.

Speling, like currency, weights and mezes, is a national question. Alterations for genral adoption must come with governmental sanction and authority,

We hav 5,000,000 children atending elementary scools at £10,000,000 a year. The president of the Council on Educa'n says: "After the army and navy the second line of defens as a nation lies in intelligent education of the great mas of population."

Vice-president Sir John Gorst exprest himself emfatically to like efect. From a third to a fourth of all a pupil's elementary-scool life is devoted to reading and riting. Results ar unsatisfactory. Government inspectors constantly lament: "Reading is weak;" "Speling inaccurat."

As to "Wepns of Warfare" for the *First* line of defens, the army and navy, we hav "instruments of precision" at £40,000,000 a year, not begrudged by the nation.

Look on *that* picture and on this:

The alfabet is the tool for teaching essential and initiatory subjects, Reading and Riting mother-tung. Linguists and teachers declare its use

"a mas of anomalies repugnant to good taste and comon-sens, without rule, method or system, unscientific, unhistoric, unteachabl."

In Italian, German, Spanish, Welsh, etc., the alfabet has been corected and simplified so that Reading and Riting mother-tung ar redily ataind with reasonabl practis. Why not ours? Why doesn't the Education Department enquire into it? In the army and navy evry invention and suggestion for improving Wepns of Warfare ar carefully enquired into and adopted if tho't desirabl. It wud be paralel if the war'office persisted in uzing "flint and steel" rifles; or the admiralty, "Wooden Walls."

This is the age of scientific acuracy. In arithmetic, symbol and number corespond with faultles acuracy. In music, signs giv no uncertn sound. These subjects ar lernt easily with reasonabl practis: our alfabet is left to the chapter of accidents—no-

body's child. The universities disclaim it. Speling is left substantially in that confusion and caos made by Caxton's ignorant foren compositers and their successers up to 300 years ago. Before printing authors rote fonetically under difficulties. Transferring manuscripts to print with an imperfect Roman alfabet was difficult for erly printers, whose faults and blemishes wer handed from generation to generation of printers. Johnson copid these defects and compilers of dictionaries copy print; printers swear by authorized dictionaries; so the stupid game goes on. Printers ar masters of the situation; only an Act of Parlement can move them. My difficulty is how to move the authorities; it will take an erthquake to stir them. If government, after inquiry, wud permit use of *some* consistent system of teaching reading in elementary clases, it wud be a blessing. At the rate the Empire is extending, haf erth's population wil want to lern English.

Liverpool, Eng.

E. JONES.

NEWS-NOTES AND COMENTS.

—Q, Ø, U, (capitals), and q, ø, u, (loer-case), ar differentials belonging to the Scientific Alfabet, an alfabet so enlarged and uzed in printing the Standard Dictionary. The Inland Type Foundry, Saint Luis, Mo., recently aded these characters to the Quesnel series, a hevvy face, in its pica (six lines to an inch) size. "Now boys avoid ful brooks" looks thus in capitals:

NDU ØØIZ ØVØID FUL BRUKS

while loer-case forms ar illustrated by:

Prolong Nashunal Baundari

—*The New Voice* is *The Voice* with new name, a prohibiion weekly newspaper published in New York with large circulation. For a year or two it printed all preterits (as banisht) ending in a t sound with t insted of ed. This was stopt with change of name. An old subscriber remonstrating with the publishers for this receivd this reply typeritn: "The Funk & Wagnalls Company "adopts the speling referd to, in 'The Misionary 'Review' and in 'The Homiletic Review.' In 'The 'New Voice', oing to the number of complaints "receivd from varios contributors, the editor pre-ferd to adopt the spelings promulgated by 'The "National Educational Association"; as catalog, "program, thru, thruout. By comparing our "publications, yu wil find that we adopt more "reformd speling than when merely foloing use "of t for ed when pronounced so. The trend of "our march is onward. Chicago leads with some "reforms, tho not yet accepting t for ed. That is "mere mater of time. We just as strongly favor "reform as ever."