

the English language, and a good vocabulary, have been gained. In my preference, oral methods come first; the manual alphabet method second; and the sign-language method last; but my heart is with teachers of the deaf whatever their method may be.

The great movement now going on in sign schools towards the greater use of manually spelled English, and the less use of signs, meets with my full sympathy and approval. Those schools that now limit the use of the sign language to chapel exercises, and to communication in the play ground, have, in my opinion, made a step in the right direction. My attitude towards them is Hamlet's attitude towards the players: "Do not saw the air too much with your hand—thus. . . . I pray you avoid it." You remember what the first player said: "I hope we have reformed that indifferently with us." To which Hamlet replied, "O! reform it altogether."

In regard to the proper use of action and gesture, I cannot do better than give you Hamlet's advice to the players—which is my advice to you all.

"Suit the action to the word, and the word to the action, with this special observance, that you o'erdo not the modesty of Nature."

ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL.