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KEY: a a e e i o o u u ü  
az in art at ale ell eel t l or ox no up put ooze

**ECONOMY.**—Charles Lamb relates that the order was once givn clerks in the India office to ceas doting *i*'s and crossing *l*'s, and according to him, the saving in cost of ink was wonderful. If the habit prevail of dropping all redundant or silent letters, the saving in ink, as wel as in wear and tear of nervs wud be great.—*Normal Index.*

**TYPE-RITING.**—Evry one who puts words on paper shud no what useles lumber ther is in English speling; shud no that silent, dubld, and irregular leters cud as wel be dispenst with as American judges and lawyers dispens with enormus wigs which their English brethren wear in court; that all filologists favor reform of speling; that only inert conservatism opposes it, and that ther is a good time coming, when 800 taps of type-riter keys wil spel out as many words as 1000 do now, when ther wil be no uncertnty about it, and two years of speling-book drudgery saved evry child.—F. A. FERNALD, in *Type-writer Operator*.

**DIVIDING WORDS.**—We hav calld attention, more than once, to dividing words—a practical mater to the printer who has to divide properly when the end of a line occurs in mid-word. The question ofn arises as to whether a word shud be divided so as to sho pronunciation, that is, at end of a sylabl, or, on the other hand, shud it sho derivation, for the two wil sometimes conflict. The one way takes *sound* as guiding principl; the other, *derivation*. We believ that Long is right when he teaches (in *Slips of Tongue and Pen*, Appleton, 1888): "In riting it is beter to divide sylabls [words] according to sound than according to derivation. E. g.: Epiph-any, pref-ace." Derivation indicates epi-phany (Gr., *epi* and *fano*), and pre-face (Latin, *PRE* and *FACIES*). Observ, too, by the way, that where our modern sp. has ph, Greek has a singl leter corresponding to f.

**PRACTISING WHAT THEY PREACH.**—It is wel now that linguists prescribe or endors amended speling. Ther is not a filologist of any note but does so—that is an old story: it is something new tho to see them practis it. This they ar begining to do, and that in Britan, the stronghold of unchange. We cud hardly believ our eyes when we saw it. The *Proceedings* of Filologic Society (British) for 1887 ar just to hand in speling amended nearly as much as in these pages and strikingly like what we hav regularly used for 3 years. Their *Transactions* include chief papers red at meetings and the *Proceedings* above mentiond, the later being a record of discussions, minuts, etc. The papers themselvs ar stil in old sp. That they shud hav done this shows an ad-

vance not trivial but far-reaching and important. We hope soon to find room to giv an extract illustrating the amendments they practis. The reader can then draw his own comparisons and conclusions.

### BELL'S NOTATION.

*World English*, Melvil Bell's latest elort, whose coming we heralded two months ago, turns out to be a 25-cent pamphlet, which however is but the foreruner of the *Hand-book* at same price and which wil giv more ful expos'n. His earliest speech-analysis was .xposed in *Visibl Speech* which claimd .s depict the fysical proceses of speech. So it does fuly and mesurably correctly in *so far as the mouth is concernd*; but the mouth plays a part in speech no greater than it does in digestion. Mastica'n is the first act in the digestiv proces. The mouth plays the subordinat part of a resonance tube to the vocal box with its reed-like vocal cords and belows-like machinery beyond. Indeed the mouth is but a part of the resonance tube, other parts being the farynx, the posterior nares and the nasal cavitis proper. *Visibl Speech* may lay claim to be a natural, but stil arbitrary, alfabet in so far as the mouth, jaws and lips go. Its proper place then wil be instruc'n of the def-dum. With *Visibl Speech* evrything is mouth!

Late in 1886, B. publisht his *Line Writing* which we noticed over a year ago. This was his second plan of nota'n. At the time, our readers wil recolect, we counsel'd his adop'n of Roman letters which he has at last seen fit to do tho for years he has held such to be "futil," "of litl succes," etc. In *Sounds and their Relations*, a work which bears internal evidence of having been ritn in Brantford, Canada, he was particularly censorus of Romanization. When noticing his *Line Writing* we stated our decided preference for a 12-vowel alfabet insted of 19 discrimina'ns there givn. It is interesting to examn the Romanized form of his plan (namely, *World English*) to see if he adheres to his 10 distinctions. He does not: ther ar now but 16. With Roman leters and a lesning by 3 in number of vowels, we expres the hope that time wil bring him into line with the rest of us. The linguists hav adopted a 16-vowel scheme also, (ther ar but 12). Jones has probably expres the general opinion of this last when he rote that the extra "4 vowels wer seemingly introduced with sole object of meeting an arbitrary and fanciful method of pairing vowel sounds." But do Bell's 16 agree with the linguists' 16? No. In reducing 19 to 16, B. has bakt down on his previus claim that the vowel sounds in *tion*, *a*, and *the needed distinction* not only from one another, but from the 16. He now makes them coincide respectively with those in *up*, *and*, and *ill*.