

Some wil prefer one letr ; others, another. They must hav yuniform [harmonius ?] faces. Time, patience and perseverance wil accomplish it. I wish yu cud raiz money enuf to procure type for a complete alfabet. Knudsen's Dictionary wud be a great help if he had an entire alfabet.

Oberlin, Ohio.

JOEL MYERS.

### ETYMOLOGY.

[The foloing we find in Mackay's paper before Nova Scotia Educational Assoc'n, 1885. A translation into French appear in *Buletin Mensuel* for Feb. A Swedish translation has more recently appear in *Nystavaren*, which is the organ of the Swedish S. R. A.]

"Spel Phthisic," (said our amiabl and most conventional teacher, whom we all liked.) Jim, litl cuning rebel, as he was, ansers : "T-i-s-i-c."

"No, P-h-t-h-i-s-i-c," said the teacher, and the dialog went on.

"Why do yu spel it with a *phth*?"

"To sho that it is from Greek and means consumption."

"Cudn't we no it is from Greek and ment consumption without *phth*?"

"Perhaps yu cud ; but yu wud hav to turn up the dictionary for it."

"And if yu spel it with *phth* yu needn't turn up the dictionary need yu?"

"No, yu blokked, that is to say, if yu no Greek, the form of speling wud tel yu that it was Greek."

"Do peopl generally no Greek before they lern to spel English?"

"Of cours not. What a foolish question!"

"Wel, why did they make the word so that we hav to lern Greek speling before we lern English speling?"

"Why, becaus that is the right way to spel, who ever herd of it being speld any other way? And when yu lern Greek it wil strike yu with great plesure to see how simpl the speling and meaning of *Phthisic* wud hav been had yu only non Greek before yu lern'd to spel."

"Do all then, lern Greek after they lern to spel so as to be struk with this great plesure?"

"Of cours not. But why do yu ask?"

"Wel,—I was only thinking. But how many do lern Greek?"

"Perhaps 20,000, according to the *Encyclopaedia*."

"And how many lern English?"

"About 100,000,000."

"And how many 20,000 are ther in 100,000,000?"

"About 5,000, of cours. But what of that?"

"Is not that the same as if evry one in a town larger than Pictou shud be compeld to spend his time in lerning English words with Greek speling, so that *one* boy shud hav the plesure of seeing, when he comes to

study Greek, that some words he lern'd wer speld prety much, altho not exactly, like Greek?"

"Yu had beter hold yur tung, Jim, yu ar a dangerus boy—to dare to question the proper way of speling words, which I hav by dint of careful labor for years become almost perfect in, in which I hav ataind more excelence than in any other subject. Yu conceitd, radical litl scamp!—keep mum, and spel *Phthisic*."

Had Jim been able to quote in retort, what a few years afterwards was stated by one of the most acurat scolars in the world, A. H. Sayce, Profesor of Philology in Oxford, and author of the international textbook, "The Siencie of Languages," which of the two wud hav wilted? Here it is: "English speling has become a mere seris of arbitrary combinations, an embodiment of the wild gesses and etymologis of a presientific age, and the hap-hazard caprice of ignorant printers. It is good for litl els but to disguise our language, to hinder education, and to suggest fals analogis."

—Evry articulation or "consonant" consists of two parts, a *close position* and an *opening action*. Final articulations in words therefore ar not completed until the organs ar *separated*. . . . As a hamer is raizd before its downward stroke, and afterwards rebounds from the object struck: so the activ organs of speech shud, before an articulativ strok, be freely separated from the parts of the mouth against which they ar to act and afterwards ently fall asunder. The opening of the mouth puts all the organs in a state of redines for any action that may folo; and, at the same time, allows for an easy influx of air.—*Bell's Elocution*.

PROSODY.—The latest theory of vers—Mr. Sidney Lanier's—is, in substance, that the lines ar divided into bars, and so groupt that those of equal temporal value recur in fixt numerical positions; that a pause can take the place of a sybl; that the accent lengthens the time necessary to the utterance of a sybl, whether it be the usual pronunciation accent, or the logical accent comonly call'd *emfasis*; that evry sentence has a rythm of its own conected with the meaning it conveys. His principles seem to be correctly based in the siencie of sound, and the nature of spoken discours, and the last seems to be illustrated in many of Longfelo's lines. For if we examin his poems, we find that in many of them the mechanical rythm is neglected. Many of them wil not scan in the tecnical sens. Ther ar redundant lines and short lines, but the harmony which results from artistcally form'd clauses is never wanting.—*C. F. Johnson*.

—Can you tel how Keough, a man's name, is pronounst?