

forgive our trespassers. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

In 1537 the whole Bible was printed with the King's license, and in it the Lord's Prayer was rendered thus:—

O ure father which arte in heven halowed be thy name. Let thy kingdome come. Thy will be fulfilled as well in erth, as it is in heven. Give us this dayeoure day'y bred. And forgeve us oure trespasses, even as we forgeve oure trespassers. And lead us not into temptacion, but delivrer us from evyll. Amen.

Authorized version, 1611,—

Our father which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever, Amen.

From the authorized version, 1859,—

Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name: thy kingdom come: thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven: give us this day our daily bread: and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors: and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: for thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, for ever, Amen.

The Claims of Phonetic Spelling.

It is the object of this paper to present an outline of a subject which might be treated at much greater length; and it is hoped that many may be induced to weigh the considerations here set forth who might turn away from a more extended treatise.

The proposal to revise and amend the system upon which English orthography is constructed, seems at first sight a highly audacious one. But the feeling of indignation which is apt to arise when such a proposal is mentioned will probably subside when it is remembered that the existing system dates as far back as the Norman Conquest,—that perhaps nothing else of so early an origin in the whole range of British affairs, has escaped the scrutiny and the transforming power of modern knowledge, zeal and energy,—that in point of fact, a process of change in spelling has been ever going on, though so gradually as to excite no alarm,—that while the old orthographic basis is retained, such modifications must come far short of what is desirable,—and that therefore there is nothing unreasonable in the opinion that at the present advanced stage of our literary history and attainments as a people, this basis itself should be examined, its defects supplied and its excrescences removed.

As Britons, it can afford us no satisfaction to disparage in any respect our native tongue; but we must remember, on the other hand,

that it has not been by shutting our eyes to our defects that we have reached our present exalted position among the nations. Let us, therefore, look dispassionately at the case. The charges brought against the existing system of spelling are such as the following:

1. That the characters employed are too few. There are twenty-five vowel sounds, to represent which upon paper there are only five letters; hence a is one thing in *mane* and a different thing in *man*, and so with the others. Five consonant sounds are also without characters, namely, that given to *th* in *thin*, that to *th* in *then*, that to *sh* in *shun*, that to *si* in *vision*, and that to *ng* in *ring*.

2. That from the want of single letters to represent such elementary sounds, the expedient of employing digraphs is resorted to, as *ai*, *ee*, *oo*, *oa*, etc., in the vowel department, and *th*, *sh*, etc., in that of the consonants, which occasions a great deal of needless writing, and involves a violation of the proper theory of an alphabet.

3. That there are redundancies as well as deficiencies, inasmuch as in a large proportion of cases, the same sound is represented by a variety of expedients. Thus one vowel sound is heard in the first syllable of *maker*, and in the words *pale*, *aid*, *day*, *veil* and *grey*; but in these cases that sound is expressed by the various forms *a*, *a-e*, *ai*, *ay*, *ei* and *ey*.

4. That most of the different letters and digraphs thus employed are not confined to one sound each. For example, the letter *y* has three functions in the words *try*, *hymn*, *yet*; and *ng* also three in *strange*, *longer*, (of greater length), and *longer* (one who longs or wishes.)

5. That from the co-existence of the two forms of excess last noticed arises a great deal of confusion,—sounds and characters playing at cross purposes with each other. Thus there is one vowel element which is represented at different times by two letters and five digraphs, but of these seven only three are confined to the task of representing that vowel. The others have from one to four additional functions, amounting to eleven in all,—these eleven being mere duplicate methods of expressing other elements.

6. That though certain rules are formed for the purpose of guiding through the labyrinth occasioned by this state of things, these rules are far from being adequate to the task proposed for them. They are numerous and intricate to such a degree that few even of the well-educated ever master them; and after all it is doubtful if more than half of the materials of the language are reducible to their sway.

7. That as the necessary result, the difficulty of learning to read is at least double what it ought to be—while that of acquiring a knowledge of spelling is increased to an extent which it is not easy to estimate. With

a perfect alphabet the spelling should determine the pronunciation, and the pronunciation the spelling; but instead of this it becomes necessary to put forth a special effort of memory for each of a vast number of words. When we look at the words *paper* and *panic*, we naturally suppose that the first vowel should have the same sound in both; but we find the fact to be, that the second consonant is attached to the latter syllable in the one word, and to the former in the other. They are therefore read *pa-per* and *pan-ic*. But we are not guided to this information by the letters, or by any definite rule. It must be obtained by inquiry and firmly fixed in the memory, ere we can read these words correctly. [The printer would here observe that the compositor who put this article in type,—a youth who has lately left a National School, not being acquainted with the word *panic*, in reading his copy to the proof corrector, pronounced it *pa-nic*, in accordance with the syllabic division of *pa-per*, *fa-ror*, *ca-pier*, etc.] Again, if we wish to spell the word *peak*, it may be written *peke*, *peek*, *peak*, *pik*, *peik*, or *pique*, and each of these modes has usage in similar cases to plead in its favor. The sound of the word does not therefore lead us to the proper letters, and a special act of memory is required to enable us out of six modes to choose the right one. In short, the never-ending recurrence to the Dictionary on the part of all learners is a standing proof of the difficulty experienced in attaining to accuracy either in spelling or writing.

What is required, therefore, is such a reformation of the orthographic basis of the language as will secure two things.

1. That each distinct elementary sound shall be furnished with its representative letter.

2. That each letter be confined to the duty of representing one sound only.

By the first of these principles the vowel sounds in *bale*, *bat*, *ball*, *balm*, would, for example, be expressed by four characters, instead of one as at present. By the second principle there would be an end of all diversity of methods for accomplishing the same object. By the joint operation of both, all digraphs and silent letters would be removed from the field, and spelling would come to form a consistent, complete, and precise reflection of accurate speech.

One or two examples may be adduced in elucidation of these statements. The vowel sound heard in the word *be* occurs also in *eve*, *meet*, *pea*, *grieve*, *seize* and *marine*. But the modes of expressing it are as numerous as the words, namely, *e*, *e-c*, *ea*, *ie*, *ei*, and *i*. By the new method, all these modes are reduced to one; thus, *be*, *ev*, *met*, *pe*; *grev*, *sez*, *margin*.

Again, the consonant sound which comes first in the word *kill*, is expressed by *c* in *can*, by *q* in *quell*, by *ch* in *chord*, by *ck* in *pick*, by *cc* in *accord*, by *cq* in *acquit*, and by *que*