

STORY OF GH.—How is it that we hav in so many words the two strongest guturals in the language, g and h, not only separatly, but combined? The story is od. Saxon scribes rote—not *light, night, and night*, but *liht, miht, and niht*. When they found that Norman-French gentlemen wud not sound h, and say—as is stil said in Scotland—*licht*, etc., they dubld the gutural, strengthening h with hard g, and again presented the dose to the Norman. But, if he cud not sound h alone, stil les cud he sound the dubl gutural; and he very coolly let both alone—ignored both. The Saxon had dubld the signs for his gutural, just as a farmer might put up a strong woodn fence in front of a hedg; but the Norman cleard both with perfect ease and indifference. So it came to pas that we hav the symbol gh in over sevnty words, in most of which we do not sound it at all. The gh remains in our language like a moss-grown bolder, bro't down into the fertil valy in a glacial period, when guturals wer both spokn and ritn, and men believ in truthfulness of letters—but now past by in silence, notist by no one.—PROF. MEKLEJOHN, in *Eng. Language*, Edinburg, 1886, page 247.

EXPULSION OF GUTURALS.

The Normans helpt us in geting rid of numerus throat-sounds that infested our language. It is remarkabl that ther is not an h in the hole language. The French rite h in several words but never sound it. Its use is merely to serv as a fence between two vowels, to keep them separat, as in *la haine*, hatred. No dout Normans cud uter throat-sounds wel enuf when they dwelt in Scandinavia; but, after they had livd in France for several generations, they aquired great dislike to all such sounds. No dout, too, many, from long disuse, wer unable to giv uterance to a gutural. This dislike they communicated to the English; and hence, in present day, ther ar many peopl, especially in south of Eng., who canot sound a gutural. The throat musls that help to produce these sounds hav become atrofied, hav lost their power from want of practice. The purely Eng. part of population, for many centuris after Norman invasion, cud sound guturals quite easily, just as Scotch and Germans do now; but it gradually became the fashn in Eng. to leav them out. In some cases the gutural disapeard entirely; in others, it was changed into or represented by other sounds. The ge at begining of pasiv or past participles of many verbs disapeard entirely. Thus *gebrolht, gebolht, geworht*, became *brought, bought, and wrought*. G at begining of many words dropt off. Thus *Gyppenswich* became *Ipswich*; *gif* became *if*; *genoh, enough*. Gutural at end of words, hard g or c, also dis-

apeard. Thus *halig* became *holy*; *cordhlic, carthly*; *gastlic, ghasly* or *ghostly*. The same is the case in *dough, through, plough*, etc., the gutural apearing to eye, not to ear. Again, the gutural was changed into quite different sounds—into labials, into sibilants, into other sounds also. The foloing ar a few exampls:

(a) Gutural softnd, thru Norman-French influence, into a sibilant.

Thus *rigg, egg* and *brigg* hav become *ridge, edge* and *bridge*.

(b) Gutural has become labial, f, as in *cough, enough, trough, laugh, draught*, etc.

(c) Gutural has become an additional syllabl, and is represented by a vowel-sound. Thus *sorg* and *nearh* hav become *sorrow* and *marrow*.

(d) In some words, it has disapeard to both eye and ear. Thus *maked* has become *made*. *Ibid*, p. 246.

—Why shud we spel it *sieve*, insted of *siv*, when the cognate is *sift*? Giv it up? Wel, so do we. No sensibl man can giv a reason.

—Japan adopts the 24 o'clock plan on 1st Jan., 1888! Astonishing! The world does move! They hav an orthografy about perfectly fonetic since the introduction of the Roman alfabet to supersede their old ideografic system.

CORNWALL AND LANCASHIRE.—Tregellas in an article on Cornwall, in *Nineteenth Century* for Nov. '87, says: "The dialects spokn even in the present day in some cuntry districts ar quite unlike any other dialects, and ar as unintelligibl to a stranger as that of Lancashire."

—Mr. J. B. Rundle, an activ and prominent advocat of Am. Sp., has publishd a simpl fonografy to be used as a means of denoting speech or pronunciation. It employs a shorthand sign for each sound. If used in school, as intended especially, it familiarizes both pupil and teacher with the elements of sound, apart from misleading habits of old orthografy and so serves a useful purpos. It is comparabl to shorthand product after lerning fonografic alfabet. The signs used ar not thruout the same as in fonografy.

—A secnd edition of Mr. Knudsen's Primer is under way. The first edition, 300 copis, is about exausted.

—Mr. J. G. Gholson, of Broughton, Ill., is in the lecture field this winter. His program givs a choice of three lectures: (1) Protection and Finance. (2) Craming, Orthografy, and Elementary Sounds. (3) The Participl. He is "perfectly sound on the goos question" (Sp. Amendment.) We hope he wil make two things—converts to tru faith, money.

—Compare *tongue* and *rnng*.