

The Fonetic Herald

DEVOTED TO ORTHOEPY AND ORTHOGRAPHY.

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RESTORATION OV 'U'

The proposal tu hav the capital ov 'u' a simpl enlarjment ov it, insted ov 'U' az now, iz not an inovation but a *restoration*. Such a shape az a capital was in use in printing for centuries. We hav had the privilej ov inspecting a copy ov Homer's *Odyssey*, printed at Cambridge in 1680, in which each page ov the Greek alternates with its Latin translation. All the capital 'u'z ar simpl enlarjments ov the small ones - at eni rate in an hour's careful inspection ov it we hav faild tu find eni other. The Latin name ov the hero iz ov frequent ocurens, and iz invariably printed thus: 'Ulysses', never 'Ulysses'.—Other books, printed before and 'after, employ both forms. Thus, in the first edition ov Pope's translation ov Homer's *Iliad*, publisht 1715, we find the shape 'U' ov frequent ocurens. In *italic*, however, the shape 'U' iz always found. When the corner stone ov King's (now Columbia) Colej, N. Y., was laid in 1756, it was in use: for we read the name 'CAROLUS HARDY' upon it. The stone iz stil tu be seen. A *fac-simile* ov the inscription iz tu be found in the Oct. 1884 no. ov *Harper's Monthly*, page 719.

It thens appears that the shape was uzed in the lătr haf ov the last century. In other words, our grandfathers saw it regularly. We find it eceptionally in 1834, az in the Royal Insurans cal-

endar. Now, tu hav two shapes for the same capital letr encumberd the printer's case and one was dropt. Ov the two, U, the simpler, was prezervd az the *printed* capital form while 'u' was retaind az the small letr.

It shud be mentiod that tu our day *written form* iz a simpl enlarjment ov *u*. Thoz who hav oportunity shud make it matr for obzervation how far such form iz general or prevalent. Uxbridge, University Colej, and elshwar giv good fields for obzervation.

With the written form now regularly in use, and the printed form in use recently, the propozd shape shud not be hard ov introduction. It givz simplisity and yuniformity insted ov diversity.

With such change, we hav U left az the capital ov *u*, uzed az the sign for the vowel sound in *nut*. We then hav the simpl, yuniform, and consistent Uu, *nut*; uu, *put*. This amounts tu the introduction ov a new letr without introducing eni shape but what iz alredy familiar.

TU C' RESPONDENTS.

(Matrzov *general* interest or ansrd here)

S. C., Toronto.—Praer iz the *person* who prays: praer, or prar, iz the *petition* or form ov words spoken. See Wustr (Worcester.)

W. M., Perrytown.—*Their* iz pronounst thar, az *they* iz tha; *there*, adverb, meaning in that place, iz thar; while *there*, introductory expletiv, iz ther, or thur. Wustr givz the foloing exampl: 'Chastisement iz not in hev'n, becauz thar ther iz no sin; nor in hel, becauz thar ther iz no amendment.'