

ETYMOLOGY.—If the present system had historic value as indicating the source, the original pronunciation, or any other important fact about a word, we might reconcile ourselves to it. But its *positive* *mis* takes are so many that we can never place faith in it. We rite *sovereign*, from the ridiculous idea that it has something to do with *reign*; *posthumous* with *h*, from the error, long since exploded by Latin scholars, that it referred to *post humum*, after death; *elycan*, the scholars now always rite *silea* in Latin; *island*, from an imagined connection with *insula*, whereas it is Anglo-Saxon, and shud be *iland* or *eyland*. Why shud we rite participles *spread*, *dead*, but on the other hand *led*, *fed*? That some historic information may be conveyed by present orthography cannot be denied; but where half of such information is demonstrably false, the other half is open to suspicion and practically useless. Even if this half were absolutely reliable, it is an open question still whether retention of old orthography, or keeping orthog. abreast of the times, yields more information to the historian. MAR TINEAU in *Trans. Phil. Society*, 1867.

CHAUTAQUA. How to spell an Indian name is often a puzzle. Each nation tries to represent its sound by letters whose values accord with powers of such letters in the speaker's language, whatever that may be. In Dr Vincent's new book (*The Chautauqua Movement*, Boston, 1886) we find at p. 5: "It is interesting to trace changes in the name Chautauqua. Indian, Frenchman, and American have had hard work to get it into its present shape. "Jat-to-ca," "Chat-a-co-nit," "Tchad-a-ko-in," "Tjad-a-so-in," "Chat-a-kou-in," "Shat-a-ko-in," "Jad-ax-qua," "Jad-a-qua," "Chaud-dawk-ka," "Chat-augh-qa," "Chau-tau-que," until a few years ago, by special legislative enactment, the present name "Chautauqua" [Sho tok'wa] was given."

ARKANSAS. The proper pronunciation of 'Arkansaw' is [not Ark'an so', but] [Ark' msa'. This was the old Indian pronunciation, which early French traders expressed in letters as 'Arkansas'. French *a* is always broad, and the final *s* is silent; so 'Arkansas' to the French was pronounced [Ark-msa. Congress spelled the name, in the act organizing the territory, 'Arkansaw', and for some years it continued to be so spelled. Finally, as every one new the pronunciation, the original spelling was brought into use again. Then came people who new not the history or pronunciation, who called it [Ar-san'sas, and this mispronunciation throve. In 1830 the State Historical and Eclectic Societies jointly investigated the name and its

pronunciation, and on their report, the substance of which is given above, the state legislature decided that [Ark'an sa' was the legal pronunciation. *Notes & Queries*.

Why one *f* in *claf* and two in *cliff*? Because *claf* is Italian, a language spelled with common seas.

WHAT OFFERS? The following accounts are offered for sale cheap: John Johnston, Inspector of Schools, Belvid, Ont., . . . 3 years' subscription @ 25 cents; A. Crichton, B. A., Waterdown, 2 years' @ D. H. McDermid, London, Ont., 1 "

FRENCHIFIED INDIAN.

The comments on Arkansas and Chautauqua in this issue are but examples of a large subject: The representation of a North American Indian name with French letter values. This comes of Frenchmen having been early explorers in N. America. The Spaniards, with and after Cortes, overran south and west; and so places there have names spelled simply as Spanish orthog. is simple: witness, San Bernardino, Pasadena, Los Angeles, El Paso, and many others.

Up to middle of last century, British possessions were confined to a narrow strip along Atlantic coast, with Dutch possessions about N. Y. The remainder was French from Hudson Bay to Gulf of Mexico. This explains Frenchified spelling in names from Indian. French power ceased with fall of Quebec in 1759, historically but yesterday. They spell such names with their values familiar to them. Thus *ou* in Fr. is either *u* or *u*, which explains *ou* in *Louisiana*, *Missouri*, *Sioux*, etc.; *ch* sounds *sh* as in *Chicago*, *Michigan*; *ther* being *no w* in Fr., *Ouisconsin* (U is *con sin*) was what is now *Wisconsin*, as we have *w*. So, Fr. having no *k*, *qu* did for *k*, and *au* often representing the sound *o*, we have *Esquimaux*, with Fr. plural *Esquimaux*. That people call themselves *Inuits* (In wet), but the Creeks nicknamed them *Es'ki mo*, meaning *flesh-eaters*, as English are called "beef-eaters", and French missionaries mistook this for their name. Of late only is sensible Eskimo to be found.

The question is, should such words accord with our use of letters, or with French, Spanish, or what else? There should be no national values, but international ones only; and this the Geographic Society very properly does. Its rules with abundant examples were given in these pages for Nov. 1886 and Nov. 1887, which see.

Applying this principle, Arkansas would be *Arkansa*. As state legislation settled orthography of the word, it should now settle orthog. amputate useless, silent, French *s* final.