

THE SPANISH ALPHABET.

The Spanish Alphabet consists of 29 letters:—

A a (ah)	H h (ahcheh)	N n (enneh)	T t (teh)
B b (beh)	I i (ee)	Ñ ñ (ennieh)	U u (oo)
C c (theh)	J j (hotah)	O o (o)	V v (veh)
Ch ch (cheh)	K k (kah)	P p (peh)	W w (dobleh oo)
D d (deh)	L l (elleh)	Q q (koo)	X x (ehkis)
E e (eh)	Li ll (ellich)	R r (erreh)	Y y (ee griehgah)
F f (effeh)	M m (emmeh)	S s (esseh)	Z z (thehtah)
G g (heh)			

The letters *k* and *w* occur only in words of foreign origin.

There is only one accent in Spanish, namely the acute one (').

The diæresis (¨) is placed over the *u* when the emphasis is on this vowel; for example:—*vergüenza*, (*vergöënthah*).

The tilde (~) is a sign which serves to distinguish between the plain *u* and the nasal *u*.

There are five vowels: *a*, (like *a* in father), *e*, (like *e* in met), *i*, (like *i* in hit), *o*, (like *o* in more) *u*, (like *u* in full).

CONSONANTS.

The letters *b*, *d*, *f*, *k*, *l*, *m*, *n*, *p*, *t*, and *v* are pronounced as in English, with the exception of the *v*, which is much softer in Spanish.

c has two distinct sounds: before *e* and *i* it sounds like *th* in *thermometer*, *thin*; in all other cases it sounds like *k*; as: *cama*, *color*, *culebra*.

ch is pronounced like *ch* in *children*; as: *chorro*, *muchacho*.

g has two different sounds: before *a*, *o*, *u*, it sounds like *g* in *garden*; as: *gobierno*, *gana*. When followed by *u*, the *g* has the same sound as in *garden*, the *u* being silent; as: *guitarra*, *guiar*. When *g* precedes an *e* or an *i* it has a guttural sound equivalent to *ch* in *loch* (Scotch); as: *coger* (*cocher*), *ginete* (*cheenehtay*).

h is always silent; as: *hora* (*ora*), *hermano* (*airmahnoh*).

j is pronounced like *g* before *e* and *i*, example: *Juan* (*chooan*), *joven* (*choven*).

ll has no equivalent in English, the nearest approach to it being the *li* in *postillion*; example: *ella* (*ayleeah*), *camello* (*kahmayleeh*).

ñ has a sound resembling that of *n* in *onion*, *bunion*; for example: *cañon* (*kahneeong*), *niño* (*neeneeh*).

r has two sounds, one soft as in English when placed between two vowels or at the end of a word; as: *para*, *amar*; at the beginning of a word it is equivalent to the English *r*; as: *rico*, *rich*.

s has always a hissing sound as in *miss*, *disc*, etc.

w is pronounced like a Spanish *u*; example: *Wellington* (*Uehlington*) *Walter* (*Uahltar*).

x has two sounds; when it stands before a consonant it is pronounced like *s*; example: *experiencia* (*essperientheeah*), *experto* (*esspairoto*). When placed between two vowels it sounds like *ks*, thus: *examen* (*eksamen*) *exit* (*eksito*). In the Latin prefix *ex*, it is pronounced as in English; *ex-ministro* (*eks-meeneestroh*), *ex-cathedra* (*eks-cataidrah*).

y is considered a vowel, and of the same nature as the Spanish *i*.

z is pronounced like *th* before any of the five vowels, thus: *zapato* (*thahpahtoh*), *zorra* (*thorrah*); at the end of a word it is pronounced like *th* in English; example: *paz* (*path*), *haz* (*oth*).