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### SHAKSPERE'S ORTHOGRAFY.

"It may be safely aserted, without fear of the riter being acused of exagera'n, that the First Folio Edition of Shaksper is the most interesting and valuabl book in the hole range of English literature." So starts the preface of a book before us: "The Works of William Shaksper in reduced fac simil from the famus First Folio edition of 1623." It is publisht by Funk and Wagnals (20 Astor Place, N. Y., 1887). At Shaksper's deht in 1616, his plays wer not publisht colectivly; some, indeed, wer not in print at all; others had texts that had been tamperd with. Ben Jonson, a personal frend of Shaksper, and with him on his last drinking bout, colected his works and publisht them in 1623. A copy of that edition brings a fabulus price according to condition. A good copy may be put down as worth \$4000. Its uses for critical examina'n by those interested in history of our language ar very great and so justifies the first sentence above. Several fac simil editions hav already apeard. These, tho, ar quite expensiv. The present one is publisht at a price (\$2.50) so remarkably lo as to bring it within reach of all. Tru, the type is rather small. This is no great objec'n as it will be used for reference insted of reading. The reader is aware that our modern editions hav modernized texts, ofn diferent from original and worthles as basis of criticism. We giv a very imperfect imitation of lines facing title page on which is a cut of S. They ar signd "B. I." (Ben Jonson). They giv a picture of orthograpy 2½ centuris ago. The reader will notice (1) the long ss, (2) copesiv use of silent e, (3) u for v, (4) vv for w, (5) many nouns begin with capitals as in modern German, (6) i for j.

This Figure, that thou here seest put,

It was for gentle Shakespeare cut:

VVherein the Grauer had a strife

vwith Nature, to out-doo the life:

O, could he but haue dravvne his vvit

As vvell in brasse, as he hath hit

His face, the Print vvould then sur-  
passe

All, that vvvas euer vvrit in brasse.

But, since he cannot, Reader, looke

Not on his Picture, but his Booke.

B. I.

S's orthog. was ofn beter than ours, as  
witness:

begger,	biskets,	tel,	pedler,	perswade.
beggar,	biscuits,	tell,	peddler,	persuade.
symbols,	dram,		brast,	hart.
symbols,	drachm,		breast,	heart.

*Honor, labor, etc.*, ar spelt sometimes with  
*or*, sometimes *our*.

On the contrary, modern speling is beter  
than S's in some respects, as:

vp, Ioues, Iewell, clarke, clarks, ioy.  
up, Jove's jewel, clerk, clerk's joy.  
winne, heyre, magicke, Pigge, pitty, gue.  
win, heir, magic, pig, pity give.

The volume shud be got by evry scolar  
and shud receiv careful study. Apart from  
its uses to the orthografer it has of late  
been bro't into great prominence since Don-  
nelly h-as gon rampant on the Bacon-Shak-  
spere controversy. Altogether it is the most  
importa: volume of the year.

### BRITISH-AMERICAN SPEECH.

Western's *Englis. he Lautlehre* (Henninger  
Bro's, Heilbronn,) is a ful careful and system-  
atic presenta'n of Eng. fonetics based on  
Sweet, Storm, Viotor and the author's own  
study under Sweet's personal supervision.  
It shud, therefore, represent present pron-  
uncia'n of Eng. in England, but if so, this  
does not coincide with best pron. in America  
I hav heretofore taken excep'n to Sweet's  
pron. and must renew my criticism in his  
pupil's case. Western adopts Bell-Sweet  
vowel system with additions, and classifies  
consonants according to posi'n of tung and  
lips. R is disregarded even where r is dis-  
tinctly preservd in best American pron. So  
too in neglect of initial h in *what* = *wot*, and  
the same in *which*, *whether*, etc., so that  
coknyism is now publisht to continental  
nations as best Eng. pron.....

....*More* and *morning* hav the same vowel-  
sound; *tore*, *pour*, *soar*, *door*, *floor* ar pro-  
nounced with vowel of *all*, so that o no  
longer exists before r, and in *no*, *ago*, *store*,  
etc., is represented by *ou*; certnly many  
Americans pronounce *no* without this u-pro-  
longa'n.....The sound of y in *pity*  
is givn to first syllabls of *expect*, *exhibit*,  
*exampl*, *examine*, like i in *agine*.....

If this is correct Eng. pron., it is redily seen  
how far English hav departed from older  
pronuncia'n of the language which has been  
preservd more purely on this side of the  
water, and it wil soon be hard to say whether  
a givn pronuncia'n is "good English" or  
not. What hope is ther for ever ataining  
reformd sp. on fonetic lines if the same  
words must be speld diferent ways for  
Englishmen and for Americans.—Prof. J. M.  
GARNET in *Amer. Jour. Philology*. (1886,  
p. 388.) The book [Western's] is a detaild  
and consientius study of the Eng. sound-  
system, very exhaustiv and correct so far as  
London dialect is concernd. We wish  
another standard had bin chosen.—Prof.  
PASSY in *Paris Teacher*.

—Why has Carleton Co., Ont., silent e in  
it, when Carlton St., Toronto, has none?