

LITERATURE.

MINUTES OF SIXTH CONVENTION of the Provincial Educational Assoc'n of Nova Scotia at Truro Halifax, N. S. 1886. This pamphlet of 70 pages contains an able paper pressing claims of Revised Spelling. It was prepared by Principal McKay of Pictou at request of Dr Alison, Superintendent of Education. As vigorous a plea for 'revision shud make an effectiv impression if repeate annually which shud be done. Friends of Am ended Speling in Ontario hav been remais in this respect since 1883. Vigorus skirmishing can redily be kept up all along the line of States and Provinces. Another important paper is that by J. B. Calkin, A. M., Principal of Normal School, Truro, on Methods of Teaching Beginners to Read viz., Alfabetic, Fonic, Fonic, Word and Sentence methods. With present alfabet it is found that a use of the fonic or word method is best according to what the word is; with an enlarged alfabet, the fonic method wud at once come into vog, supersede evry other and render both Reading and Pronunciation perfectly simpl.

PRONUNSIASHUN.

Psalm, sam or sam, not sɔm. amen, a'men' "a'men' "əmen In singing it is comonly pronounst a-men. Walker says it is the only word in the language which has two consecutiv accents.

Tokio, (Japan) To kyo been, ben ɔr bin, not ben, altho ben is favor'd by the rime in these lines from Whitier

"Of all sad words of tung or pen,
The sadest ar it might hav been."

Don Juan, Den Hwan (Spanish) but Den or Don Ju'an Anglicized as Byron rimes it with ruin.

—Mr ISAC PITMAN, the venerabl inventor of fonograpy, rites us from Bath, Eng., that Rule B givs but 3 changes in the old speling while 10 ar required for even a first stage. We ansr that it is intentionally so restricted as ther is not perfect agreement beyond these 3. The rule is so framed as to admit of a

redy extension when wisht as thus

CHANGE { d, ph, gh c s g u q.
if sounded so } to t, f, f' s z j w k.
Mr P objects that Rule A — Omit evry useles letr — is difficult of application by the multitude as they wil not be able to tel when a letr is useles. To any reader this wil not aply; we expect no riter to aply it who laks the litl noledge of the use of lettrs requisit. Such a one wil stil go to mil with grist in one end of bag across horse's bak, a stone to balance in the other. as did his grandfather.

A E I O U. — In the folowing list, each vowel, insted of having an onest character which might be depended on "plays many parts."

A — hating, futher, lather, water,
many, want.

E — be, clerk, pretty, let.

I — invalid, sin, bind.

O — go, do, women, on, son, woman.

U — unruly, busy, bury, but, using,
pull persuade.

No one cud possibly tel from the a in hating what its sound o't to be in a-father, and the same of any other two words in the list.

MARKT LETTRS ar objectionabl because 1. Markt lettrs ar tantamount to new lettrs in trubl and then ar not as distinct as good new shapes. Evry accented letr has to be cast separatly and kept in a separat box in font. 2. They ar almost impossi'l as capitals. 3. The space above a letr is ofn wanted for extra marks. 4. They require a frequent raising of the pen: that is, after a word shud be finisht we must stil tinker it up in one or several places. 5. They disfigure the page: a correspondent rites "they make it as frekld and spotted as a turky s eg. They ar wel enuf for a scientific alfabet: we want a practical alfabet for evryday use." Dr T. R. Vikroy has had experience and rites to *Jurnal Am. Orthoepy*: "we caution printers not to use markt lettrs. They ar so trublism as to be impracticabl. New lettrs of characteristic shapes ar superlativly betr."

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