

dubl consonants. Except in a few compounds like book-case, dubl consonants never occur in pronunciation; yet in our spelling they swarm like locusts in Egypt: for they 'cover the face of the hole erth, so that the land is darknd, very grievous ar they; before them ther wer no such locusts as they, neither after them shall be such.'

Scott then gave long word-lists in parallel colums, showing that in these words where dubl consonants ar found now but singl ones occur in Anglosaxon. He was then instructor in Anglosaxon in Columbia college. He goes on to say:—

"These words, as a rule, continued to be spelt with a singl consonant until the sevteenth century, when the dubl consonant, never sound-ed dubl, began to prevail—to preserv the short sound' of the preceding vowel; a wholly unnecessary device; ther ar thousands of words in which the 'short sound' of a vowel, accented or not, is preserv'd before a singl consonant. Such words, if monosyllabls, ar chiefly Anglosaxon; if polysyllabls, chiefly Latin (French), or Greek."

Where we now hav dubl consonants Old French, Midl English, and usually their Modern French equivalents, ar shown to hav singl ones; and again

"In many of these words doubling is due to conformation with Latin; but such conformation is indefensibl on both fonetic and historic grounds; on fonetic grounds, becaus the sound is singl; on historic grounds, becaus the dubl consonant falsly implies direct derivation from Latin.

"If it wer posibl for an advocat of 'historic' or 'etymologic' spelling to cherish that plausible notion after a week's real study of etymology, he wud hav to insist on return to 'historic' spelling of the words mentiond, and w'd so far, tho he had vowd neither to offer burnt offering nor sacrifice to other gods than 'Etymology', be forced to bow himself down in the hous of the Rimmon of Fonetics."

Scott reaches the sweeping conclusion: "dubl consonants ar at once needles, wasteful and misleading. Whenever yu see a dubl consonant raise its hed, hit it. Ten to one yu will lay an imposter low."

Adopting this sweeping rule of omission for some years, we soon found that doubling l, m, n, r and s was necessary in some classes of words (see HERALD, vol. i, page 169) as *illegal, immortal, unnecessary, irredeemable, dissimilar*, tho the syllabl in consideration had but medium or low stres; as well as such words as *wholly, fully*, for which "holi" and "fuli" will not do. The consonant in such case is "held", to signify which foneticians hav a special sign not admissibl in Orthograpy.

Mr Holt (of Henry Holt & Co., publishers, New York) rites:—

"Is ther any necessity of geting rid of the few accepted rules of English spelling and pronunciation which we hav? One of these rules I take to be that a consonant between two vowels belongs with the latter, and consequently yu can divide spelling, which makes the pronunciation as we ar used to it, or yu can divide spelling, which makes the pronunciation 'speeling'.

"If I am rong about this, I shall be very glad to be set right."

We hav carefully considered this, reaching a conclusion that it is but a mechanical (not a fonetic) rule—a "rule of thum" to

be givn a typeseter too ignorant or too stupid to folo any other. In our language strest vowels attract neighboring consonants. Vickroy haf saw this fully fifteen years ago, in saying "syllabls gravitate about accentual centers". To which belong m in *feminine* or *premise* (noun), t in *preterite, petulant*, or l in *polish, prelude*? Ar not bib'lic.al, tel'e.graf, te.leg.ra.fy, he-red'i.ty, her'ō.in, prop'er.ty, wel divided? The foloing deliverance from the Chicago *Stylebook*, p. 7, is both useful and logical, but it conflicts with Holt's rule:—

"Ther ar frequent instances where a particular division of a word will aid the reader in its pronunciation at first sight, obviating faltering or repetition, as pro-gress, verb, and prog-ress, noun, distrib-ute, verb, and distri-bution, noun; pre-fer, verb, and pre-ferable, adjeuiv."

Again, this good rule does not help it:—

"Where a vowel constitutes a syllabl in mid word place this vowel in the first line, as prominent is preferabl to prominent, qualities to-qualities, particu-lar to particu-lar, dili-gence to dili-gence, sepa-rate to sepa-rate, etc. Exceptions: In words ending in -able or -ible, the singl vowel shud be carid into the second line."—*Ibid.*

We conclude, first, in Amended Spelling (as distinguisht from its syndrom Orthograpy) ther ar cases of holding and of stres in uncomon positions, and a few isolated words, as *latter*, in which dubld consonants shud be retaind, as a hint to position of stres or to prevent conflict with other words, as *later*; exampls: *abyss, success, gazett, gazell, tobacco, mulatto*. Ther ar four words with dubld consonants in the anecdote of Milton on our fourth page. Now, in *dissimilar* let ss be retaind to show that s is "held"; but in "account", "according-li", and "effect", where they appear on the authority of a dictionary, let singl c and f suffice becaus these first syllabls hav low stres. Second, in Scool Orthograpy let *abnormal* stres be markt, as *hotel; gazet*; but this is unnecessary in an establisht Orthograpy as long experience with *hotel* amply testifies.

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-T FOR -ED.—Let us recomend restoration of historic t after breth consonants, which printers during the past century hav industriously perverted to ed, riting *felcht, blusht, pickt, drest, winkt*, like Shakspear, and Herbert, and Milton, and Addison, and as we actualy do in *lost, left, felt, meant, burnt, blest, taught*. *Laughed* for *laught* is not a whit les monstros than *taughted, soughted*, wud be for *taught, sought*; nor is *worked* for *workt* les odios than *wroughted* wud be for *wrought*.—Dr James A. H. Murray.