

PHONETIC PIONEER

cles, and fingers, to type and ink, and then to paper again; whence the rays of light transmit it to the eye of the reader, whence it passes on its mysterious journey to the soul.

Languages vary in respect of their utility as instruments of communication. That language which, all things considered, is best, must eventually become the general medium of communication, or be the immediate predecessor of a universal language.

Excellence of the English Spoken Language.—The English language—which has drawn riches from various sources to answer the demands of the numerous and grand experiences of the race who use it—which is well adapted to poetry or prose, to science or art, to commerce or philosophy, to religion or law, to the delicate ornations of literature, or the sternest and most practical life-experiences—will become the universal medium of communication, both by reason of the indomitable energy of the Anglo-American race in every phase of life, and by reason of its superior merits as a spoken language, unless we shall prove blind to the anomalous orthography by which it is now represented, and fail to provide in its stead (which may be easily done) a scientific mode of writing and printing it.—Prof. Grimm, a noted German philologist, has paid no unmerited compliment to the English spoken language in the following paragraph:

"The English language possesses a power of expression such as never, perhaps, was attained by any other human tongue. Its altogether intellectual and singularly happy foundation and development has arisen from a surprising alliance between the two noblest languages of antiquity, the German and Romanesque—the relation of which to each other is well known to be such that the former supplies the material foundation, the latter the abstract notions. Yes, truly, the English language may call itself a universal language, and seems chosen to rule in all future times in a still greater degree in the corners of the earth. In richness, sound reason, and flexibility, no modern tongue can be compared with it, not even the German, which must shake off many a weakness before it can enter the lists with the English."

K. M. Rapp, another noted German philologist, in his "Physiologie der Sprache," has given the following testimony in favor of the English language:

"Although the French has become the common language in a diplomatic and social sense, it has never acquired a firm footing in extensive regions out of Europe. The English, on the contrary, may pass for the universal language out of Europe; and by its bold fusion and consequent decomposition of the forms of its Gothic and Roman elements, this idiom has acquired incomparable fluency, and powers especially destined by nature more than any one of the other living languages to undertake that part. Were not the impediment of a bizarre, antiquated orthography in the way, the universality of this language would be still more apparent; and it may perhaps be fortunate for us other Europeans that the Englishman has not made the discovery."

Defects of our Written Language.—But we are beginning to make the discovery.

Read what Sheridan says of it:

"Such is the state of our written language, that the darkest hieroglyphics, or the most difficult ciphers ever intended by the art of man, were not better calculated to conceal the sentiments of those who use them, from all who do not have the key, than the state of our spelling is to conceal the true pronunciation of our words from all except a few well-educated individuals."

It is said, in "Chambers' Papers for the People," that "we violate every principle of a sound alphabetic system more outrageously than any other nation whatever. Our characters do not correspond to our articulations, and our spelling of words can not be matched for irregularity and whimsical caprice."—[ORAHAM'S HAND-BOOK.

Defects of the Common Orthography.

TOO MANY SIGNS FOR A SOUND.

Let it be understood to be a principle of a correct alphabet that no elementary sound of the voice should have more than one sign provided for its representation, and, in that respect, the common orthography will appear defective. It does not, however, furnish a sufficient number of single signs for the elements of the language, and of those provided, so far as the representation of single elements is concerned, *e*, *g*, and *x* are redundant, for *x* = *ks*, *kz*, or *z*. But let the combinations of letters (which are used as the signs of single sounds) be regarded as so many separate signs, and the proposition that the common orthography employs too many signs for a sound can be easily sustained. It is a fact, that the number of signs employed to represent about thirty-four elements is not less than three hundred; and instead of every sound having its uniform representative, as should be the case in a correct orthography, not a single element of the language has a uniform representation in the common spelling! The elementary sound produced in naming 'a' is represented by sixteen different signs; thus by *a* in *making*, *a-e* in *male*, *ai* in *pain*, *au* in *straight*, *au* in *gaol*, *aw* in *gauging*, *aw-e* in *gaug*, *ay* in *pray*, *aye* in *prayed*, *ea* in *great*, *ei* in *veil*, *ei* in *reign*, *ei* in *weigh*, *ei* in *weighed*, *ey* in *they*, *eye* in *conveyed*.

The elementary sound produced in naming the letter 'o' is represented by seventeen different signs; thus, by *e* in *be*, *ee* in *bee*, *e-e* in *complete*, *ea* in *each*, *ea-e* in *leave*, *eg* in *impregn*, *ei* in *conceit*, *ei-e* in *conceive*, *eo* in *people*, *ey* in *key*, *eye* in *keyed*, *i* in *albino*, *i-e* in *magazine*, *ie* in *grief*, *ie-e* in *grieve*, *uay* in *quay*, *ui* in *mosquito*.

The sound heard in naming the letter 'i' has sixteen different signs. The sound indicated by *ew* has nine different representatives.

The sound of *k* is indicated by *c* in *can*, *ch* in *charm*, *ck* in *back*, *gh* in *lough*, *k* in *kill*, *lk* in *walk*, *q* in *quack*.

The sound of *t* is indicated by *bt* in *debt*, *ct* in *indict*, *ed* in *lacked*, *ph* in *phibisc*, *pl* in *plarmigan*, *t* in *to*, *th* in *Thomas*, *tl* in *letter*.

The sound of *f* in *for* is indicated by *ff* in *off*, *gh* in *lough*, *ph* in *phisc*, *pph* in *Sappho*.

The sound of *s* in *sin*, is represented by *c* in *cede*, by *ps* in *psalta*, *sc* in *sceno*, *ss* in *loss*, *sch* in *schism*, *sw* in *sword*.

The sound of *l* in *low* is represented by *ll* in *hall*, by *ln* in *lin*, by *lc* in *cas le*, *ll* in *belles*, *ltee*.—[Graham's Hand-Book.

THE PHONOTYPIC ALPHABET.

VOWELS.

E e	U u	A a	O o	O o	O o
cel,	ale,	am,	all	ode,	ooze;
	A a	U u		E e	
	air,	ask,		earh;	
I i	E e	A a	O o	U u	U u
it,	ell,	am,	ou	up	foot;

DIPHTHONGS.

F i	O o	S s	U u
by,	boy,	how,	new;

CONSONANTS.

P p,	B b,	T t,	D d,	C c,	K k,	G g,
pp,	bb,	tt,	dd,	cc,	kk,	gg,
F f,	V v,	R r,	L l,	S s,	Z z,	X x,
fife,	vira,	lath,	lnthe,	cause,	seize,	she, azure;
L l,	R r,	M m,	N n,	J j,	Y y,	W w, H h.
ll,	rare,	main,	nun,	sing,	you,	wany, hay

PHONOGRAPHY,

WRITING BY SOUND!!

PHONOGRAPHY was invented by ISAAC PITMAN of Bath, England, in the year 1837. It is the most simple, most natural, most rapid, and most easily-learned system of Writing which has ever been, or ever can be invented. During the past fifteen years, hundreds of thousands of persons, in England and America, in both public and private life, have learned to write Phonography, and thousands of social and business letters annually pass through the post office. Now is its great popularity to be wondered at. The present system of writing is exceedingly cumbersome and totally unworthy these days of progress and invention. Phonography is equally as legible, can be learned in one twentieth the time, and can be written six times as fast. In other words, the labor of six days can be performed in one; one man can do the work of six! So simple is the system, too, that a person may learn to write it slowly, in a couple of hours. An hour's daily practice for a few weeks will enable any person to write Phonography with certain, and with some degree of freedom. The same amount of practice continued for six months will enable a person to take reports of speeches, lectures, sermons or conversation, and to read them with accuracy. Dr. J. W. Stone, of Boston, says: "I deem Phonography an invaluable adjunct to education and one which, when acquired in youth, would not be parted with in manhood for thousands of dollars." The late Hon. THOS. H. BAXTER, upon being presented with a verbal report of one of his masterly speeches, taken by a little boy only twelve years of age, said: "Had this art been known 40 years ago it would have saved me 20 years hard labor." The learned senator spoke but a portion of the truth. What long-hand requires six years to accomplish Phonography will perform in one.

To Clergymen, Editors, Physicians, Lawyers, Secretaries, Conveyancers, Law and Medical Students, Lecturers, Private School Teachers, Merchants, School Boys and Girls, a knowledge of Phonography is of vast utility. In fact there is no profession or calling in which it is not useful, and no young man's education can be considered complete without it. During the past nine months hundreds of persons in Canada, of every pursuit in life, have acquired the Art, from many of whom the subscriber has received neatly-written phonographic letters, expressive of their delight with the attainment, and the extraordinary ease with which they have acquired it.

For the purpose of aiding in the dissemination of so important a reform in his own country, the subscriber is now prepared to supply all who apply, with the MANUAL OF PHONOGRAPHY, and the PHONOGRAPHIC COPY BOOK, sent by mail to any part of the Province, postage pre-paid, for the small sum of **ONE DOLLAR**. Can Anybody and everybody, who can learn anything, can learn PHONOGRAPHY from the MANUAL, without other assistance. Those who wish to be able to put their thoughts to paper at the rate of from 100 to 250 words per minute, should send for the above-mentioned works at once. The instructions given by the Manual is as plain as A. B. C., and ten times as easy to understand.

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