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REVISED SPELLING: 1. OMIT every useless letter.  
2. CHANGE *d* to *t*, *ph* to *f*, *gh* to *f*, if sounded so. These rules are justified by Revision of Spelling (now in progress). Such spelling is to be preferred, just as Revised Translation of Bible is preferred to that of 1611.

### VOWEL PAIRS.

An exact specification of vowels is a necessity in all study of speech-sounds. This has been made by writers on Fonography, and done so well that an experience of half a century serves to show that the twelve vowels of the Fonographic System are practically all-sufficient, altho theoretically some ones only maintain the recognition of one or more shade vowels. When Walker, in 1791, first published his Pronouncing Dictionary he recognized thirteen, the thirteenth being that in *my*, now generally conceded to be diffringal. Except in this respect, Walker, in subsequent editions in his lifetime, and even in those of recent issue, never departed from his twelve vowel system. Other orthoëpists, notably Smart in 1836, attempted improvements on Walker. They had little practical value.

A recent analysis of our vowels is that used by the Bureau of Ethnology at Washington, and made by Major Powell. It may be found in the second edition of his *Introduction to the Study of Indian Languages*. The Indian races of America are rapidly dying out and their language becoming extinct. The Bureau desire to have all such languages run down for Ethnologic and general scientific use; in doing which, it is evident no time should be lost. Accordingly all competent observers are earnestly urged to make their records of Indian speech; and, that uniformity of result be secured for comparison, it is indispensable that a common system of orthographic notation be employed. For this purpose, the sounds heard are referred to and compared with the sounds of the chief modern languages, especially English, so generally spoken throughout America. Not only are the right vowels given by Powell, but they are paired properly. Fonographers do not do this. They attempt to force the twelve into six pairs. The truth is, eight of them compose four pairs well enough, while the remaining four do not pair at all. A dash, light or heavy, and a dot, light or heavy, each in three different positions, give a brief and simple method of marking the twelve. In shorthand, *brevity* takes precedence over everything else, even to the sacrifice of fonologic truth. Hence *brevity* made it expedient that the twelve be forced into six pairs. Three of these pairs are natural enough: viz., those in *ill* and *eel*, *ell* and *ale*, *pull* and *pool*. Two others are wholly unnatural, and should be divorced: viz., those in *up* and *no*, and those in *at* and *art*. Those in

*not* and *naught* constitute the sixth pair. But the vowel in *not* pairs much better with that in *art*, leaving those in *at* and *naught* unpaired as they should be. So excellent is Powell's division that we prefer to let him speak for himself:

"The vowel sounds found most widely among human languages are the five occurring in these English words: *far, they, pique, note, rule*.  
"Each of these sounds is represented in English by two or more letters or combinations of letters. Often in English, still more often in French, and usually in German and Italian, these sounds are represented by the vowel letters by which they are written in the words above given, namely:

a e i o u  
far, they, pique, note, rule.

"They are generally called the continental signs, as being so used in all Europe, except the British Isles.

"Any given vowel sound is apt to be found in the same language having two different quantities, one long and one short. Often there is also a slight difference of quality or tone added to that of quantity. The difference of tone between the long and short values of what is nearly the same sound is greater in English than in almost any other language."

This is what makes it so difficult to accept paired signs for sounds that seem perfectly distinct, even to the most ignorant among us. An ignoramus can readily distinguish between *ill* and *eel*, *ell* and *e*, *pull* and *pool*. This being the case, it is a positive mistake in the learned to insist too rigidly that they shall be represented by paired signs. Powell proceeds:

"The shorter sound corresponding to the long *e* of *they* is the sound of *then* or *head*; the short sound to *pique* is that in *pick*; the short sound to *rule* is that in *pull*. But English has no real short *o*, except in the 'Yankee' pronunciation of a few words like *home, whole, none*. Nor has it a real short sound corresponding to the *a* in *far* and *father*; the so-called 'short *o*' of *not* and *what* and their like is our nearest approach to it, and is near enough to bear being called short *a*.

"The usual way to distinguish the short value of the vowel is to write a curved mark (the brev) over it. These five signs, then, should be written in this manner:

ä    ẽ    ı̄    ö    ù  
what, then, pick, [whole,] pull.

"It should be distinctly remembered that the sounds represented by these letters marked with the brev are not exactly the short sounds corresponding to the long vowels represented by the unmodified letters. There is in each case a slight difference of tone in addition to the difference in quantity.

"In English we have a vowel sound heard in *awe, aught, all, Lord* and many other words..... Then there is the sound of *a* in *cat, man*, and other words..... Finally there is the vowel sound heard in *but, son, blood*. It is often called a neutral vowel because in its utterance the organs of speech are nearly in the indefinite position of simple breathing."

To sum up, we have four pairs and four not paired, viz., those in *no, all, cat, but*.

—With emphasis we repeat that former advocates of Orthographic Revision—

1. Had bad alphabets.
2. Began at the wrong end.
3. Went too far.