

the *et*. No man of experience in teaching writing should ever commit such faults as these, and to say that the author of this series of Copy-books has done so, is to admit that he never taught children to write or has forgotten that he did so. After all the letters have been introduced, lessons are given in book 2, as exercises upon them, but in these why should *r*, *w* and *x* be omitted, and why should *j* be made without its dot? When pupils reach book No. 4, they begin to leave school for the duties of after life; it is therefore one of the most important of the series, and as such should be made as complete as possible in itself. Mr. Beatty gives practice in just twenty-four words in this book, and in these we fail to find *eight* of the small letters, *b*, *k*, *j*, *g*, *r*, *w*, *x* and *z*. With such a fault as this before us, we seriously doubt whether Mr. Beatty ever realized the responsibility of the work he undertook in preparing a series of Copy-books for our Canadian schools. The remaining books show the same blemish, for the letters *f*, *w*, *x* and *z* are left out in No. 5; *g* and *z* in 6; *j*, *x* and *z* in 7; *g* and *z* in 8; *k*, *j* and *g* in 9; *g* and *z* in 10,—which is the first book with angular hand;—and *j* in 11.

Of capital letters *Q*, *X* and *Z* are omitted in No. 8; *R*, *U*, *X* and *Z* in 9; and *O*, *P*, *Q*, *R*, *U*, *X* and *Z* in 11.

The size and style of the writing is tolerably uniform in books 3, 4, 5 and 6, but in 7 it is made about one-third smaller, and in No. 8 the versatility of the author's pen becomes conspicuous, for we find not less than four styles of writing; in No. 9 the same thing appears, the first page teaching one style of writing, and the second page teaching a totally different style. The letter *j* fares badly at Mr. Beatty's hands; we have already seen that he neglects to give its complete form, that he omits it altogether from four of his books, and when we examine the capitals we find he is not at all careful to distinguish its shape from that of the *I*. In Nos. 8, 9 and 11, where more than one line is needed for the copy, he takes about one-fourth more space between the lines than he allows the scholar for his writing. No. 8 is

intended to contain examples of commercial forms, but as they appear here, they are forms more honoured in the breach than in the observance, from the inextricable manner in which many of them are mixed up. Perhaps the most serious fault of these books is in the shading of the capitals. Invariably the curve of the oval of such letters as *A* is shaded in the horizontal part resting on the base line. In actual practice it is impossible to shade thus, inasmuch as this part of the stroke is made with the side of the pen which necessarily makes a fine stroke; if any shading is to be done it should appear in the down stroke when both points of the pen can be brought into play; and all good systems of penmanship which we have yet seen show it thus.

After the examination we have made of these Copy-books we can come to no other conclusion than that Mr. Beatty has not given the public the full benefit of his knowledge and skill, or that he was not equal to the task he undertook; but whether the defects we have pointed out are attributable to his fault or to his misfortune, they are such as no amount of puffing can prevent coming to light; and he had better set about removing them altogether.

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AN ETYMOLOGICAL DICTIONARY OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE, arranged on an Historical Basis. By the Rev. Walter W. Skeat, M.A. Part I., A-Dor. Oxford: At the Clarendon Press; London and New York: Macmillan & Co. 1879.

An etymological dictionary arranged on an historical basis has long been a desideratum with students of the English language. The only work which will bear a moment's comparison with the present one—that of Mr. Hensleigh Wedgwood, of which a second edition appeared some seven years ago—though admirable of its kind, is defective in not indicating the precise source whence any particular word was actually derived. Thus, to take an instance at random, under the word “Beverage,” we are referred first of all to the Latin *bibere*; whereas, as a matter of fact, the word came to us from the French,