

## EXPLANATION.

Mr. Charles P. G. Scott, the Treasurer and Corresponding Secretary of the American Spelling Reform Association, requests us to state that the article printed on the fourth page of our last issue, and ascribed to him, was not signed by him in its present form. It appears to have been condensed from an article which appeared in the *New York Independent* a few years ago. We clipped it from the *Toronto World*, wherein it was credited to Mr. Scott thru the *American Shorthand Writer*. We made no change, except omitting a 10th paragraph, and did not intend to imply that Mr. Scott had signed it in its present form, or that he had adopted the fonetic characters in which we printed it. Mr. Scott says that he is unwilling to appear as approving any other fonetic alphabet than that adopted by the Spelling Reform Association, and that he thinks it unwise now to make any changes in proper names.

## TU CORRESPONDENTS.

(Matzov's general interest answered here)

*L. B.*—All the standard lexicons, in the part devoted to orthoepy, teach that when *wh* is found the *h* is sounded before *w*: thus *when* is pronounced *h-wen* *hwen*.

*E. W. R.*—You are right in supposing that it amounts to a demand that differences of sound to the ear shall be indicated to the eye by corresponding differences in the shapes of the letters.

*P. R.*—The letter for short *o*, as in *not*, is *oval*: that for long *o*, as in *note*, is *round*. Old fashioned *o* was round, perfectly circular outside and nearly so within, is still employed in the much-used type called old style in which most of the best class of books is now printed. Since early part of present century type-founders have made *o* more or less oval except in old style. Both are now

in current and frequent use. It seems well to now differentiate them. We thus, in effect, add a new letter to our defective alphabet.

*W. M.*—Merely reading the *HERALD* will be productive of a small part only of the benefit you are capable of getting thru it. Study it. You will then find it a great help and guide to a noble of the two subjects to which it is devoted.

*S. C.*—The pronunciation of *prayer*, a petition, and *there*, in that place, as given in Feb. issue, is correct. Worcester sees the vowel *iz* that in *fare*, not *far*, as he distinctly states (p. xiii, §11.) Webster is even more explicit and discusses the subject at p. xli, §4. He sees 'Two errors in opposite extremes are here to be avoided: 1. That of the vulgar who pronounce *where* *hwar*, *careful* *carful*. 2. That among some of the educated classes who pronounce *pair* *paer*, *parent* *parent*.' You have fallen into the second error. Webster also sees 'it is a somewhat lengthened sound or short *a*.' We cannot give page and paragraph now. The fact is that between the vowels in *fare* and *fat* there is a quantitativ but no qualitativ difference. Some alphabets propose a letter (*q*) to indicate the longer sound; not good because departing from simplicity. In general the shape of a letter should indicate quality only. Quantity depends on accent, surrounding letters, emphasis and much else. The vowel in *fare* is lengthened by *r*. . . . . The definite article is pronounced *the*, *thi*, *thv* and *the*. The vowels in the last two are obscure. In choosing the last we follow the rule of leaning on the conservative side. . . . . We have not space to discuss whether *earth* be *erth* or *urth*. Will do so later and fully. . . . . When we spelled the sixtieth part of an hour as *minut* we were again conservative.

PETERBORO.—Mr. J. H. Long recently gave a lecture before the Y. M. C. A. at Peterboro on Amended Spelling.—He traced our alphabet from its origin, showing that we have not letters enough for the sounds. Hence we are driven to the use of make-shifts, called expedients, to do the work of the letters lacking. The matter was well illustrated and ably explained. The *Review* sees the lecturer was greeted with hearty applause.