

It may be useful to sum up all the above statements in the form of a concise

BILL OF INDICTMENT

AGAINST

OUR ENGLISH NOTATION.

1. An Alphabet of 26 letters is set to do the work of 45 sounds.
2. In this Alphabet of 26 letters, there are only 8 true and fixed quantities.
3. The remaining 18 have different values at different times and in different positions; and sometimes they have no value at all. In other words, they have a topographical value.
4. Some of these 18 letters do—in addition to their own ordinary work—the work of three or four others.
5. A Vowel may have from 20 to 30 functions in our English Notation; a Consonant may have two or three.
6. There are 104 ways of representing to the eye 13 vowel-sounds.
7. Six of these vowel-sounds appropriate to themselves 75 ways of getting printed.
8. In the most purely English part of the language, the letters are more often misleading than not. In the word *cow* or *they*, for example, there is no single letter that gives any true knowledge or guidance to the child. That is, the letters