

It haz been said that the adult Briton piks up hiz jeografikal noledj during the progres ov our littel warz. In the same way he might lern to bekum a spelling reformer, for the greatest drawback to a friendly diskussion on foren politiks iz its tendency to drift into a diskussion on foren pronunsiation. If our alfabet supplied the distinktion between to kindz ov *A*'s ther would be no unsertainty az to the pronunsiation ov the Egyptian *moukabala*, nor should we hav seen one newspaper enkourajing itz readerz to say *Gundāmak* while another regularly printed *Gandāmak*, an entirely different word. An indikation that the sekond syllabel ov *Gandāmak* [*Gandahmak*?] and one ov the syllabelz ov *moukabala* have the *a* broad, would be quite sufficient to sekure uniform pronunsiashon. A partikularly absurd specimen ov the resoursez ov our alfabet iz the word *Emir*. Apparently with the idea ov making it fonetik, the spelling woz chanjed to *A-m-e-e-r*, with the rezult ov making many peepel aksentuate the first syllabel and pronouns it broad (*Ahmeer*).

Now it iz obvious that to sekure such a chanje az spelling reform we must hav konserted aktion. Lord Dundreary said that a bird kud not flock by itself, and most ov us wil deem it equally impossibel for an individual to reform hiz own spelling or hiz own muzikal notation. The intervention ov some authority iz essential, and in this kountry, wher ther iz no despotik literary Academy, the only possibel sourse from which help kan kum iz the Government. Through the Sivil Servis examinationz, through Blue Books and other official dokuments, but above all through the Inspektorz of Skools, the Government might eazily akomplish the task. Some, no dout, wil regret that such an appeal should be propozed, but certainly in this kase paternal Government, if you chooz to kall it so, iz quite inevitable. Our monstrous system ov spelling iz a mere fashion, but it iz an establisht one; and there is no diktator at Paris or elsewhere to tel us when a new fashion should kum in. We have simply to wait until the spred ov elementary edukation haz made the diffikulty more widely known and also until our Hous ov Komonz manajez to secure a litel leisure.