

trial corner.]

Sir,—Ei wish yoo a very happy and successful yeer in advocacy of dhe moest important reform ov dhe prezent day. Dhe advantej ov dhis reform when acomplisht iz only comparabl tu dhe rezults ov dhe invenshon ov Printing. We see dhe

ADVANTEJ OV CONSISTENT ORTHOGRAFY (dho far from theoretically perfect) in our litl insignificant cuntry ov Wales. A London *Times* comishoner resently ecpresst dhe graitest surprreiz at dhe number ov books and newzpaiperz baut and red in dhe vernacular in Wales. Everybody can read; and absens ov creim, jeneral inteli-jens and atenshon tu relijion rezult.

Ei hav laity inneweird what English authorz say az tu

WELSH ETIMOLOGY

and graiter nonsens woz never uterd, shing how wurthles much iz dhat pasez for etimology. Dher iz a Welsh wurd 'cytuno' cleerly 'cyd-uno' = 'con-union' = agreement. Yet Skeat, Etymologic Skeat, de-reivz dhis wurd from Eng. 'cotton' tu dhe intens ameuzment ov every Welshman! What confidens can we hav in jujment or opinon ov such men?

Ei feel litl interest in discusson ov

PARSIAL CORRECHSONZ

bei rootz in eny shaip. For teeching children in scool dhay ar ov very litl help, and every sp. reformer wil taik hiz oen cors in reiting or printing in a diferent speling.

Ar we provideing for, 1, Ded Romans or dhe living? 2, English-speaking peopl or foreners? 3, Filologists or dhe masez? 4, Elocaushonists or for ordinary speakerz? 5, Children lerning or Adults hoo hav aulredy lernt? Cleer and definit anserz tu dheez and similar cwestionz shud be givn befoer detailz can be discuss widh profit.

How much preshus teim haz beenspent, discussin simbolz for *u* in *but* and *put*? Dhe later oecurz not wuns in 100. Cud we not lev such points tu stand over for feinal desizhon til points on which all agree ar adopted. How strainj dhat in dhis, az in udher materz, men wil insist moer upon points ov diferens dhan agreement! Liverpool, Eng. E. JONES.

TYRANT CUSTOM.

Reform, publisht at Norden, Prussia, is a mouth-piece of Amended Sp. in Germany, and organ of the Association there. It is edited by Dr Frikke, Wisbaden, who in Dec. issue, quotes the articl from *St. Helens' Lantern* begining "Eng. orthografy simply disgraces civilization" in speling as found in dhe *Herald*. It then translates it into German, and ads:—

[Translation] "So across the ocean it is just as on this side: Custom is a ruler whom nothing ou-

orth approaches in power. Dr K. Duden rote in 1876. 'To make he introduction of any reform depen' on the great Public's judgment means to renounce it altogether. The Public, forced thereby to renounce its use and wont, treats every innovation with distrust. How cud it be otherwise with reform in orthog., which certly requires 'more insight than can be expected of the public.' No one wot, e. g., return any satisfactory anser to 'Why rite flur, fullen, with f; and vor, voll, with v? Yet men rite so, persist therein, finding *for, fol, un, carabl.* Even if they percieve t o perversnes of old speling and the advantage of new, they fall bak, in most cases, coward-like before Custom. So it is in Europ, nor otherwise in Americ.

"Yet Custom is not the only hindrance in bettering old 'mis-speling'; about as hurtful is

STRIEF OF OPINION.

division of forces. Isaac Pitman for 40 years has attempted freeing English of its disgraceful orthog., and with his system stands in high repute; but beside him in America and Eng. hav sprung up countles other reformers who go their own way and thru want of unity and agreement hamper the hole movement. Wer it possibl to make orthog. so perfect that evry thinking man must assent to it, Americans befoer all others wud, by their peculiar yuthful vigor, (unhamperd by of-ete customs and traditions) bring about its jeneral introduction in shortest time

"Survey of such facts is not pleasing, yet serves as a caution and

WARNING CALL TO AGREEMENT.

In what orthog. shal we rite if *doctus* of systems thrust themselves on us? *St. Helens' Lantern* cant ask any to use a new orthog. that does not exist; or that one folo *this* system today, *that* tomorrow. Our Associaⁿ wil further the good caus most effectively if it seeks to extend its circl more and more and turns away frm all controversis on side issues. In our Transition Orthografy evry friend of progress cau rite alreedy without misgiving. It wil conqer becaus it rests on a rational foundation."

What is ment by

"TRANSITION ORTHOGRAFY"

(in degree about equivalent to use of our Rules*) appears from this summary of an articl in Jan. n^r heded "What We Wish." After seting forth difficultis of Ger. speling, as 8 ways of denoting vowel-length, where to use certn letters and combinations, 5 ways of representing k-sound, which leav no cours open to a lerner but to impres establishit speling of almost evry word mecanically on memory, and tuching on absurdity of making evry child lern *two* ritu and *two* pr. nted (Gothic and Roman) alfabet., the articl proposes this remedy:—

"1. One alfabet only, the Roman. 2. No capitals except begining sentences and proper names. 3. No doubling consonants in same syllab; omission of all signs for vowel-length, except in 'close' syllab the makron—*he:zily* needed i. riting. 4. Sim- pl signs for simpl sounds, viz. substitutes for ch, sch. 5. Omit superfluous (or useles) letters."

"Transition Orthografy" omits the makron except to avoid misunderstanding, and uses digrafs ch, sch, final b, d, for reformd p, t, silent h in *sehen*, etc.

We ar glad to see that *Reform* takes as standard "measured," that is, liturgic, pronunciation of New High German, not dialectic shades, not cursory, evryday, colloquial utterance.