

(forty-two elementary sounds are represented by twenty-six letters). 'C' is always k or s, j is represented by g, q is always kw, and x is a double letter, being equal to gs or ks, or it is a single letter with the sound of z, &c., hence redundancy. 'G' may be hard or soft before i; the same letter is taken to represent more than one sound, &c.; the ambiguity is plain (see Angus, page 101, et seq.) To obviate the difficulties arising from these defects and inconsistencies of our alphabet, various means have been adopted. These plans may be denominated 'orthographical expedients.' Phonography is an attempt to remove the difficulties of our orthography;

and so far as a representation of the different sounds of our language by means of distinct letters is concerned, and of all allied sounds, it may succeed; but as the literature of our language is written in the old system, the 'orthographical expedients,' herein adopted, seem to be fixed; and this circumstance is one great barrier to the successful adoption of a phonographic system. A phonetic system by which our orthography would be corrected by using the present letters of the alphabet more consistently, without adding new letters or combinations that might tend to conceal the etymology and history of words, seems to be the most commendable.

GOLDSMITH.

AN exhaustive treatise on the life and labors of Goldsmith is not intended to be presented to our readers in the following pages. We propose to direct attention to some of the principal points to be noted in the consideration of his work and literary epoch. For fuller details the reader can refer to Foster's excellent *Life*, or to the more recent work by Black. A brief sketch of his life may first fitly engage our attention.

Oliver Goldsmith, the son of a Protestant clergyman, was born at the village of Pallas, in the county of Longford, Ireland, on the 10th November, 1728. Two years afterwards his father moved to Lissoy, in Westmeath, a village which has been identified with the *Auburn* of the *Deserted Village*. At school, Goldsmith did not distinguish himself; he was considered "a stupid, heavy blockhead," and he had no graces of person to

make amends for his seeming deficiencies in intellect. He was, however, gifted with a cheerful temperament and a large stock of animal spirits, which afterwards supported him in many a trying ordeal. He became an undergraduate of Trinity College, Dublin, in 1745. Shortly after this, his father died, and he became largely dependent on his uncle Contarine for means of support. He is said to have occasionally earned a small pittance by writing street-ballads at five shillings apiece. As may well be imagined, Goldsmith was far from being an exemplary student. After a somewhat chequered career he graduated in 1749, at the age of twenty-one.

The next difficulty was the choice of a profession. The Church was first selected, but for some reason, shrouded in mystery, Bishop Elphin refused Goldsmith's application. He tried teaching next, but he quarrelled with