

familiar but frequent in scientific works? Wer orthograpy robd of glaring inconsistencies, a scientific treatise wud be as welcome as *Robinson Crusoe*. As sience is clad in uncouth garments, let sientists insist that the tailor be changed or that he make atire more becoming. Like Darwin, wil yu enter the arena of scientific orthograpy on behaf of sience, truth, children unborn, economy of time, progres of education, the language, and greater Britan yet to be.

If yu ar an *Educater* consider orthograpy from an educational standpoint. Schooll Boards and Town Councils hav power to influence Education Departments to improve and develop educational methods. Wil yu help therby to lesn ambiguities, inconsistencies and wastefulnes of speling?

If yu ar a *Teacher*, difficulties of teaching to read and spel need not be enlarged on. Wil yu urge managers and trustees to mitigate this hindrance to yur other work?

If yu ar a *Tradesman* acustomd to advertise wil yu instruct newspaper and printer to uze spelings without useles letters, as color, catalog, thoro, shipt, deilverd, biskit, bild, quartett, rubarb, hymbook, dram, catarr, camfor, telefone, telegraf, arkitekt, kemistry, fether, advertize, tung, lether, fotograf, etc.

If yu ar a *Workingman* yur children cannot stay at scooll as long as the rich man's. Yur lak of means shud be made up in better methods. Yur child's education is more important to yu than that of theirs to the weltodo. Helth and brains ar yur child's capital. Unless these be uzed economicly yur child is poor indeed. English speling robs, and, unless reformd, wil continue to rob yu. If yur footrule tel yu a piece of wood is 11 inches long, and, turning the rule over, it showd 9½ inches, yu cud not go on. English speling does this: speaks with difrent voices creating ambiguity in the child, which stops, puzld at evry step. Yur child is two years longer lerning to read than is a German one, becaus printed German is more fonetic, more definit, les puzling. Encourage eforts to simplify speling. If yu no litl about speling, ask a frend to read aloud Herbert Spencer's *Social Statics* while yu rite a dozen sentences. Pas the transcription to yur frend, then to yur wife. Compare with the printed page, then blush, laf, and agree with Spencer:

"I entirely approve of fonetic reform. The hole system of English speling is ful of absurdity and contradictions" [retarding English progres]. Yur interest and help ar needed. Read Max Müller's *Lectures on the Science of Language* and Prof. Skeat's *Principles of Etymology*. As serial literature get Dr Larison's *Journal of Orthoepy and Orthograpy* (monthly, Ringos, N. Jersey, \$1 a year) and *THE HERALD* (quarterly, 57 Harbord St., Toronto, Canada, 25 cents, or 12 penny stamps, for 8 copies for a year.)

H. DRUMMOND.

ON RITING A NEW LANGUAGE.

Questions of speling a new language ar much like ones of a New Speling for an old language. The *Athenaeum* has this to say (20 Aug., p. 235) about a *Handbook of Bemba*, an African tung now first printed:

"The question of speling a new language is always a vext one. It sounds very simpl to say one shud spel it foneticly—i. e., 'all vowels as in Italian, all consonants as in English,' or that one shud folo Lepsius' alfabet. But the former course may present the difficulty of sounds for which no signs exist in English, and the latter with its numeros diacritical marks is always a nuisance in practis, dubly so when teaching nativ children to read and rite, or printing books at a distant station with none but ordinary fonts of type. From a scientific view-point, no dout, each sound o't to hav its own character, and such combinations as sh, tsh, ch, shud be avoided, yet the rufly fonetic system above indicated has workt fairly wel in Zulu, and has now become fixt too firmly, by a groing vernacular literature of fifty years' standing, to be easily dislodged."

As to Ao Naga a course like that for Zulu, Bemba and other tungs has been in progres for fifteen years as recorded in our vol. i, p. 200. As to what basis shud be taken for a New Speling for languages alredy long ritn but whose speling and orthoepy hav drifted apart we hav had pronouncements from sevral. Skeat's has not yet apard in these colums. Speaking of Italian, he says (*Prin. Etymology*):

"The pronunciation of the vowels is tru and distinct, and may wel be taken as the basis of any reformd system of speling."—2nd Series, §211.

In New Speling.]

ON CHAPMAN'Z HOMER.

Mach hav ai traveld in ðe relmz ov göld,
And meni gudli stats and kingdomz sïn;
Raund meni western ailandz hav ai bin,
Hwich bardz in fralti tu Apollo höld.
Oft ov wan waid escpans had ai bin töld
Ðat dip-braud Hömer rüld az hiz demin;
Yet never did ai brüð its piur serin
Til ai herd Chapman spik aut laud
and höld:

Ðen felt ai laik sam worcher ov ðe skaiz
Hwen a niu planet swinwz intu hiz ken;
Or laik staut Corteth hwen wið igl aiz
Hi staerd at ðe Pasific—and ol hiz men
Lukt at ich ader in a waild sarmaiz,
Sailent Apon a pik in Darien.

—Keats.

KEY: ð a i ʌ ö ũ oi ai au iu
as in they see us old moon oil aisle owl few
(Marking o or u is unnecessary in open syllabls.)

☞ For fuller explanation and Platform see cover of Annual of New Speling (postpaid, 10 c.) publisht evry July as archives of the year.

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