

it do not require it. But everything is adjusted by separating the objects now combined in spelling, in conformity with the existing distinction between those classes. The first class will then find all they want in spelling, with an immense diminution of trouble; the second class will go in quest of their special object to the Dictionary, and find there all that can be afforded to assist them in tracing the history of their tongue to the days of Hengist and Horsa. It is to be considered as an argument for this separation that the latter of these classes must always be much the smaller one, and that for every score which the present system benefits, it subjects a thousand to inconvenience. At the same time the way is ever open for a passage from one class to the other. The mere practitioner of reading and writing may at any time become a student of philology.

4. But it will be said that these historical land-marks should be retained, not merely as matter of philological interest but on account of the light which they shed upon the meaning of words. For example, the silent and superfluous *c* in *science* connects the word with the Latin *scio*, etc.; thus showing the reader how it comes to signify *knowledge*. A reply to this would require a repetition of course of the remark made upon Etymology, and is therefore superfluous. The alleged light is often uncertain,—generally inadequate,—is not essential for common purposes,—can benefit those only who know something of other languages,—and should therefore be consigned to the pages of the Dictionary where it can be obtained in suitable measure by all who have the wish and the opportunity to profit by it.

5. After all, it will be found that in a large body of words, perhaps in most, the splendors of ancestry will not be seriously obscured by the proposed change. The relation of *ducal* to *duke*, and of these to the Latin *dux*, is discernible, though the same sound is variously embodied in *c* and *k* and *x*. And though in many words the *k* be substituted for hard *c*, their case can be no worse than this. The connection of the common termination *-tion* with the Latin *-tio* will not be untraceable though *ti* (*sh*) be represented by a single letter. In many cases what is lost one way is gained in another. Suppose "philosophy" to become *filosofi*, though it bears less resemblance to the Latin *philosophia*, it comes nearer to the Greek term, from which the Latin was borrowed. The Italian form is *filosofia*, thus discarding—though it is the nearest relative of the Latin—the digraph mode of expressing the element *f*. But the common relationship of these spellings is perfectly clear. A careful examination of the entire changes effected by phonetic spelling will perhaps exhibit results less injurious to Etymology than is commonly supposed.

6. To conclude this topic, it is somewhat remarkable with what indifference English scholars have allowed traces of derivation to disappear from the language as spoken, and with what tenacity they cling to them when embodied in the language as written. Numbers of silent letters are allowed without complaint. In words of Latin origin, letters are indulged in without scruple in sounds different from the supposed Latin ones. Thus *s* becomes *z* and *c*, or *k* becomes *s*, etc., but the letters themselves must be scrupulously retained!

The Phonographic Alphabet.

CONSONANTS.

P \ B | F \ V  
 T | D | TH ( ( TH  
 CH / J | S ) ) Z  
 K — G | SH ) ) ZH

L ( R  
 M ( N ( NG )  
 W ( Y ( H /

VOWELS.

LONG.

E | A | AH | AU | O | OO |  
 as in eel, ale, aims, all, ope, ooze.

SHORT.

i | e | a | o | u | oo |  
 as in bit, bet, bat, on, up, foot.

DIPHTHONGS.

I | OI | OW | U |

It should be observed that the upright strokes under the head of "vowels" are only for the purpose of showing the positions of the dots and dashes which represent the vowels. The dots and dashes are sounded the same in the same position, when placed to any other letter of the alphabet. The true sounds or powers of the vowel characters are shown by the italicised letters in the words beneath.

THE PHONOTYPIC ALPHABET.

VOWELS.

E e | A a | A a | O o | O o | O o  
 eel, ale, aim, all, ode, ooze,

A a | A a | E e  
 air, ask, earth;

I i | E e | A a | O o | U u | U u  
 it, ell, am, on, up, foot;

DIPHTHONGS.

I i | O o | O o | U u  
 by, boy, how, new;

CONSONANTS.

P p, B b, T t, D d, C c, J j, K k, G g,  
 pip, bid, tat, did, church, judge, cak, gng

F f, V v, R r, H h, S s, Z z, S s, Z z  
 fife, vira, lath, lath, cease, seize, str, azure,

L l, R r, M m, N n, H h, Y y, W w, H h  
 ell, rare, malm, nun, sing, you, way, lay

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