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LINES OF ADVANCE.

For *Popular* use, we believe that the form most recommendable is:

REVISED SPELLING: 1. OMIT every useless letter. 2. CHANGE *d* to *t*, *ph* to *f*, *gh* to *f*, if sounded so.

There is no use trying to give a larger dose than will be swallowed. Revised Sp., named from analogy with the Revised Version, and, so, readily understood by people generally, is quite advanced enough for them, if not too much so, judging by its tardy acceptance. This is spelt according to the rules above.

For *Educational* stage we give an orthography explained by:

KEY: a e e i i o o u u u
as in art at alo ell el it I or ox no up put do

An example is furnished by "Keep Pegging Away." To this stage we are not yet in position to do full justice typographically. With a few new shapes, it could be made very much more presentable. Time, but especially money, will remedy that. Making such allowances, the specimen is open to criticism, but only as to vowels. No solution of the problem is attempted as to consonants. We believe it adapted to school purposes—a half-way stage between the Popular and Scientific stages, suitable for most school purposes, as the orthoëpic, yet not as scientific as to be wholly beyond popular use.

Mr. Jones' Comparison of Schemes was mentioned last month. For such comparison we submit the sample "Keep Pegging Away." Revised Sp. is also hereby submitted to him. It is for *Popular* use only.

For *Scientific* use, as for filologic and other purposes, a more complete notation is needed. We hope to see the latter decided on by year 1900.

CHICAGO TO THE FRONT.—A meeting of Commissioners of U. S. Phonetic Co. was held last evening at the Grand Pacific Hotel. It was announced that a charter had been obtained for the above company with a capital of \$200,000, divided into twenty thousand shares of \$10 each, all of which had been subscribed. Object: To encourage, promote, and advance the education of children in science of phonetic spelling invented by Chas. A. Story, and to establish a school for proper teaching of the science. The following directors were elected last evening: For three years, Gen. A. L. Chetlain and C. S. Squires; for two years, J. S. Kendall and C. A. Story; for one year, G. Bradley, S. W. King, and E. L. Barber. The officers chosen were: President, J. S. Kendall; Vice-presidents, F. G. Bradley and S. W. King; auditor, C. S. Squires; secretary and treasurer, C. A. Story. The company will at once begin the work of establishing a school in Chicago.—*Chicago Times*.

LITERATURE.

AN ACCOUNT OF THE TRIAL OF THE LETTER Y, *alias* Y, London, 1765.

This was written by Thos. Edwards, who lived 1699-1757. We are indebted to Mr. J. D. Barnett, Port Hope, for opportunity to peruse. It seems that, "once on a time," the letter I felt much aggrieved because a certain Greek fellow, named Y, *alias* Y, was supplanting him, the said I, from many words in which he had the better right. I stirred up a rebellion among the other letters of the alphabet. The others, when their attention was called to it, found they had grievances too, each complaining of his own neglect and his neighbors' encroachments. They had a terrible row.

"It was not much inclined to have matters examined into, for fear lest he should be degraded into a simple aspiration, but was at last prevailed on to join in petition by P and T with whom he was in league in governing some provinces and they told him they were all equally in danger of being supplanted by Greek ϕ and θ , who, as they were credibly informed, were come over *incognito* for that purpose."

The reference is to *ph* and the two *ths* or the two sounds represented by *th* in *then* and in *thin*.

"The whole alphabet having at length agreed, some through fear, some through private pique, and others from public views, a petition was signed, and Apollo fixed a day for the hearing."

The trial is exceedingly interesting. It shows that long ago they had a clear idea of the use of many letters. Had they then revised the use of letters we would have less need of it now. We quote parts of the evidence:—

"The petition of S to be restored to his place in *defence*, *pretence*, etc. (words derived from supines of Latin words in DO) which the letter C had unreasonably taken from him. Granted."

"The complaint of O against U for intruding into the words *Honour*, *Labour*, *Superiour*, *Governour* and the like.

"The Judge discharged U with a reprimand from the final syllable of all words from the Latin ending OR; but, as for *Governor*, he said they neither of them had anything to do there, it being a substantive formed immediately from the word *govern*, and therefore he assigned that province to E, and ordered him to take possession both in that and all such words.

"A petition from N praying that G might be excluded from the words *Foreign* and *Sovereign*. Upon hearing the petition read, A immediately joined in it, and begged that both E and I might be banished from these words, and himself admitted in their room. For the latter word he bro't the authority of Milton, who spelt it *soveran*, and insisted that the other being derived from Latin *Foraneus*, he had the same equitable claim to it. G, on the other side, maintained that both words were originally formed from REGNUM: SVPER REGNUM and FORIS REGNO; and, therefore, if any letter should be banished, it should be I.

"Apollo said he had very great respect for his beloved son Milton, and would take time to consider the case. Meanwhile, people should be at liberty to spell those words which way they liked best. But he was observed to smile rather contemptuously at G's absurd assumption."

It is in this way that most of the much-vaunted claims of a spurious etymology vanish on examination. Such claims are not made except by those who are comparatively