

uses *f that*; "fr" w^b some use *f from*, is ofn red & printed as *for*; "sh" w^b some use *f shall*, is ofn mistaken *f should*; & longer words, such as *different* & *difficult* (dif^f) ar occaⁿly confused in same way. These errors giv trubl to printers, & sometimes escape detecⁿ altog^e til after publicaⁿ.

H^e obtained lists o' contractⁿs in gen^l use in principal newspaper offices in London & varius parts o' cuntry, we found t in spite o' occaⁿl discrepancies ther was substantial agreem^t. Collat^d, we frame a list w^b comprises wel-non contractⁿs o' comon words. List thus compiled was submitted privatly to sev non printers, literary men & journalists, & h^e received th' aprobaⁿ, was sent to principal printers in London w^b request t they w^d hang it up in th' print^r offices. Receip^t met entitles us to recom- end it as a standard list.

List is confined to contractⁿs o' words in gen^l use as distingui^sht f^m those t may be considered teical. Th^r ar many, f ex- ampl, w^b ar legly employd in legal docu- m^ts, such as "exors" & "adm^rs" f *executors* & *administrators* w^b w^d not always & evry- where be recognized, & m^d be misprinted if found in a totally dif^f conce^t. Agⁿ, most riters make f themselves abbreviaⁿs o' long words, w^b they contract more or les accord^t to frequency o' th^r recurrence in part work on w^b they ar engaged; but such abbreviaⁿs w^d not redily explain themselves apart f^m subject & context. We h not at present attempted to deal w either clas^s.

Where contractions ar made in mid-word, and printers hav no "superior letters" it wil be best to rely on apostrofe placed where the elision occurs. When final letters ar cut off, use the dot. Such contraction as "Mr.," "Dr.," "Mrs.," etc., ar not good. They hav crept into use from the reason stated, want of suitabl type, and a sort of make-shift for proper forms. "Hon.," "Rev.," "Gen.," etc., ar proper. Amended Sp. is itself much shorter than the old. Combining both we hav a shortening from $\frac{3}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ which cud be increast to $\frac{1}{3}$ by special contractions invent- ed by the riter to suit his individual require- ments and suited to words of most frequent ocurrence in his work.

Ther ar a few useles leters at begining of words which ar just as wel omitted, beter if brevity be esteemd a blessing. For exampl, drop *up* from *upon*, *al* from *altho*, *un* from *until*, etc. The final *al* in *ical* where the word ending in *ic* is an adjectiv (not a noun) appears no more usefull than "the fifth wheel to a coach." Thus, *historic* is enuf and quite as good as the longer *historical*.

SPEECH NOTATION.

In our March issue, we calld attention to work of U. S. Mod. Language Asoc'n. They hav issued the foloing circular which we anser in brakets []:

"Being now occupied with arrangement of a standard system of scientific sound [speech?] notat'n, the foloing questions ar bro^t before the comitee and those interest- ed:

1 a.—Shud the standard system of sound notat'n be fysiologic one, the sign for each sound indicating as nearly as posibl the posi- tion or movement of the organs of speech?

The 4th plank in the Declara'n of Princ- iple (evry plank of which we do not fully endors) covers the ground. The 4th plank means in plain words that Bell's *Visibl Speech*, nor any such system, wil ever do.

For general practical use ther is no advan- tage in a system which aims to depict in detail the fysical proceses of utterance. For Declaration of Principles see May no.]

2 a.—Or shud at least a begining be made in this direc'n by introducing some of the simplest and most sugestiv fysiologic signs. [It wil depend on what is proposed. It is wel to hav some eye to having a simi- larity of shapes where ther is similarity of sound.]

3 a.—Can we expect that authors, pub- lishers and readers ar prepared to adopt such a system at once. [No. NIHIL PER SALTVM.]

1 b.—Wud yu prefer a system on the basis of the conventional alphabets of Euro- pean languages? Revize and enlarge the Roman alphabet. The 5th plank in Declara'n covers the ground.]

2 b.—Shud the system be founded on a combination of diferent alphabets or on a singl one with liberal use of diacritic signs? The term 'Revize the R. alphabet' used above means combination. 'Enlarge it,' means *differentiate* enuf new shajes, use diacritics only if unavoicabl for here and there a sign. This is in accordance with our platform: Vowels as in Italian, Conson- ants as in Eng. By Italian vowels, is ment not only shal vowel signs be used as in Italian but that standard vowel sounds shal be held to be as in Italian.]

3 b.—Shud ther be a comon system for all languages, or a separat one for each prin- cipal group? [Get an international a'phabet. Let separat nations adopt national modifi- caⁿs. This is how it wil be, no mater how yu plan.]

4.—I^o yu favor adop'n of an existing sys- tem? If so, which?

5.—Wud yu adopt this system without change, or if not, with what modifiⁿs? [We take labors of previus workers at their scientific worth, and proceed to develop what is sufficient. Watch and wait for its development which was begun in the *Herald* for Jan., '85. Compleⁿ of the mater wil be found from then on but more especially in series of articles entitled *Pronuncia'n* start- ing with issue for June, '88.]

6.—Or do yu wish an entirely new sys- tem to be aranged?"