

WHY AND HOW FAR TO MEND SP.

The aim in recommending an amended spelling, that can be easily aquired and applied, is especially to lessn ignorance prevailing among foreners and poorer clases of this cuntry, caused by not being able to read and rite; and this, becaus they canot afford time which the sensles spelling of English requires for such an ability.

Of the fifty millions in U. S. in 1880, the census states that of persons who can neither rite nor read, ther ar one and three-fifths milion men, two milions wimen, and two milions minors over ten years of age; making five and three-fifths milions. But it may be safely aserted that out of the hole population over twenty years of age, not more than one-fourth can read and rite with facility.....

Perfect fonetic representation of speech is imposibl; and the nearest posibl and most complete is, under present circumstances, [popularly] impracticabl. Therefore, tho a vowel-letter is intended to indicate a standard sound, in actual pronunciation the vowel is expected to sway to either side of its standard place, yet without trespassing on its neighbor.

No system of spelling can be so simpl but that it needs to be taut and governd by rules. The plausibility "Rite as yu pronounce" is crude and impracticabl.

Natural antipathy against altering a habitual form requires that as much of the present form and appearance of a word as practicabl fonetically shud be retaind.

The fact that a sound is influenst by the adjoining sound shud be taken advantage of in simplifying rules of spelling: Especially that when two consonants come together, the pronunciation of the first determins sharpness or flatnes in the other.—KNUDSEN in *Appendix to Dictionary*.

ARKANSAS & CHEYENNE.—It is exasperating to explain and apologize evry time one pronounces this word correctly in intelligent New England circls, where the later and improper pronunciation was invented. The State Legislature ofically declared the final sylabl to hav the sound *-saw*, not *-sass*; the inhabitants, from earliest setlmnts, to say nothing of peopl of Luisiana, of which Arkansas was once a part, always pronounst it *-saw*. Ther is no authority for *-sass* generally givn. The word is an attempt on the part of French misionaris to spel in French the name of a tribe of Indians. No Frenchman wud ever pronounce it as taut by New Englanders. The final *s* was and is silent, and the *a* has nasal *aw*, comon in French. Old comparativists, who, regardles of inconsistency of English spelling, always inquire 'if Arkansas is Arkansaw, why is not Kansas Kansaw,' may be glad to lern that Kansas

was *Kansaw*, and erly Anglo-American travelers so pronounst it, and even attempted to spel it fonetically, as can be seen in report of Lieut. Long's expedition to Roky Mountns, 1819-1821, where it is speld *Konza*. *Chien*, originally aplied to; Indians from their system of police, I believ, ment literaly 'Dog Indians,' and graces rivers, counitis, citis, and mountns of our maps, as *Cheyenne*—plausibl illustration of Yankee fonetic pronounciation of a French-speld word. 'Arkansaw' may be difcult to say, and may fall hevily on our ears, but it is proper all the same. The sooner 'Arkansas' is abolisht the beter for our consistency."—R. T. HILL in *Science*.—I am pretty wel convinst that the mispronunciation was the invention of a clas of scool teachers whose training for teaching "Eng. branches" is so specialized as to carefully exclude evrything relating to foren languages including even English. Not a few other exampls might be quoted of similar "scoolma'am" pronounciations. "Glou-ces-ter and Worcester ar begining to replace the proper sounds among yunger generation of comon-school scolars in New England, at least, and "Norwich" and "Harwich" ar wel established. It seems to me that we realy do need more such protests as Mr. Hill's before the rage for Anglicizing does away with historic pronounciation of more of our geografic names. As to Cheyenne, I suspect Mr. Hill has laid blame on rong sholders. How western plainsmen (who, one wud suppose, wud hav inherited correct pronounciation from the old *coveurs de bois*) came to call the "Dog-Soldier" band of Indians "Shy-ens," insted of *chiens*, I canot say. I do no, however, that this was the establisht plains pronounciation. We can scarcely blame New England lexicografers, or whoever first rote it, for failing to recognize the French word under the universal western pronounciation.—J. MURDOC, *Ibid*.

Æ AND Æ.—Those who no the hole history of spelling from 8th cent. to present time best understand the harm done by the pernicious system of trying to transplant Latin and Greek symbols. Æ and æ ar best avoided. Indeed, this is done in practice when once a word becomes comon. *Æther* and *athereal* hav been sensibly replast by *ether* and *ethereal*. No one now rites *aternal*, *Solæism* is now *solacism*, and I trust that *primeval* and *medieval* wil soon prevail over *primæval* and *mediæval*. Pedantic spellings ar most objectionabl becaus useles and unfonetic.—PROF. SKEAT, in *Notes and Queries*. We hartily agree with Prof. Skeat, and trust that *diarrhœa*, *leucorrhœa*, *dysmenorrhœa*, &c., wil soon giv place to *diarrhea*, *leucorrhea*, *dysmenorrhea*, &c.—*British Medical Journal*.