

PHONETIC PIONEER,

"WRITING BY SOUND!"

Ohi this is the a e of inventions I'm sure;
There never were heard of so many before.
We have flying aerics—drawing by light—
And a long list of others that give us delight.
The wonders of steam we may daily behold,
And science will still many glories unfold;
But search the whole range of the busy world round,
The most wonderful wonder is WRITING BY SOUND.

Then write away, fly away, did you not dream
That Britons ere long would be writing by steam?
You dreamin's nearly true, but steam, it is found,
Wou'd do for the work: so we're writing by sound.

ISAAC PITMAN 's the man that invented this a-home,
And the thank's of the world are, I think, due to him;
For so brief and so clear is his system of writing,
So rational too, and so truly living;
The jabber of Taffy—the splutter of Pat—
The Japanese gibberish—the Frenchman's chit-chat—
The chong-tunge of China—the Indian's wahoo—
Are all, in an instant, made clear to your view.

Then write away, fly away; did you not dream, etc.

The signs for the sounds are so simple and small,
They occupy scarce any paper at all;
There's a page in a line!—a book in a sheet!—
A nail-shell will now hold the liad complete!
There's a word in a dot!—a thought in a stroke!—
A sty to mark sorrow—a scratch for a joke!
In fact all our thoughts, be they simple or wise,
Are down in a moment as soon as they rise.

Then write away, fly away; did you not dream, etc.

Our writing will now be performed with such speed,
We shall scarcely one-third of our lawyers need;
Wou'd that be a blessing? Some think we could spare
No. only two-thirds, but a far greater share.
You may write by this plan so amazingly quick
As though it were done by some magical trick;
A speech is dashed down—this, may be, you'll doubt,
Aye, almost before all the words have come out.

Then write away, fly away; did you not dream, etc.

Rejoice ye Phonographers! strong in the truth,
And labor to lessen the sorrows of youth,
Let union and love all your efforts inspire,
And soon you will see father Long-hand retire.
How bright is the day that's beginning to dawn!
Ere long it will burst into beautiful morn.
Untrammell'd we rise from the long-hand oppression!
The mill-stone is hauled from the neck of progression!

Then write away, fly away, these are the days
For know'edge, invention and science to blaze,
May they warm and enlighten the busy world round,
Till the millions can say, We are writing by sound.

THE PHONOTYPIC ALPHABET.

VOWELS.

E e	U a	A a	O o	W o	W o
et,	ale,	arm,	all	ode,	ooze;
	A a	Q a		E a	
	ar,	ask,		ea rth;	
I i	E e	A a	O o	U u	W u
it,	ell,	em,	on	up	foot;

DIPHTHONGS.

A i	G o	S s	U u
by,	boy.	how,	new;

CONSONANTS.

P p,	B b,	T t,	D d,	G g,	J j,	K k,	G g,
pip,	bib,	fat,	did,	church,	judge,	cake,	gas
F f,	V v,	R r,	L l,	S s,	Z z,	S s,	Z z.
fyf,	vira,	lath,	lath,	cease,	selz,	the,	acure,
L l,	R r,	M m,	N n,	K k,	Y y,	W w,	H h.
oll,	rare,	maia,	rus,	sing,	you,	way,	lay.

The Phonographic Alphabet.

CONSONANTS.

P	B	F	V
T	D	TH	TH
CH	J	S	Z
K	G	SH	ZH

M	N	NG
W	Y	H

VOWELS.

E	A	AH	AU	O	OO
as in eel,	ale,	alm,	all,	ope,	ooze.
SHORT.					
i	a	a	o	u	oo
as in bit,	bet,	bat,	on,	up,	foot.
DIPHTHONGS.					
I	OU	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 English Alphabet.

At the meeting of the Bath Deanery Church Schoolmasters' and Schoolmistresses' Association on Thursday, 23rd June, at Combe Down, Bath, England, the Rev. J. Wood delivered an interesting lecture on the "Alphabet." He commenced by observing that he appeared before them on the present occasion as a kind of stopgap, other gentlemen, of superior attainments, having been applied to, and it was only upon their failing in these applications that he had consented to supply the place. He had but very little time to prepare himself, and he was afraid he should be unable to do justice to his subject, which was one, however, which had interested him for some time, and which ought to interest them all. Alphabets were the foundation of their work as teachers. The most ancient alphabets in existence at the present time are the Sanscrit and the Phœnician. The latter was supposed to be the basis of our alphabet. The more ancient alphabet of the Hebrew language he believed was really unknown. At the present time, the Hebrew letters now used were an adaptation of the Phœnician, as was the Greek alphabet likewise. The very first letters of the Hebrew alphabet, or the symbols used, were likewise the first letters of the Phœnician. The first origin of any alphabet, he had no doubt, from what was known of the Phœnician, was the expression of ideas by pictures. Of late there has been several modern alphabets composed, based as much as possible upon the phonetic principle, really expressing sounds. These sounds were expressed by certain invariable symbols, so

that the elements of language were first seized through and expressed by symbols, the same symbols representing the same sounds, and conversely the same sounds being always represented by the same symbols. The great difficulty with our present alphabet was to find a word that was pronounced as it was spelt, for neither the vowels nor the consonants expressed the same sound in all cases. In fact, every letter in the alphabet was at times mute and liable to very frequent changes, and represented other letters totally distinct from it. For instance the *a* in *aisle* was lost; it was pronounced *ie*; *b* in *debt* and in *lamb* the same; *c* in *scene*; *c* in *muscle* *d* in *riband*, and so on. Then with regard to the vowels, *a* has 8 sounds, *e* 8, *i* 7, *o* 12, *u* 9, *y* 3, making 47 different sounds, while the 21 consonants had 70 different sounds. Our letters instead of amounting to 26 were in reality above 200. Hence any rules in regard to pronunciation were utterly lost. There were about 90,000 words in our language, of which about one-half were in general use. It was the great difficulty in pronouncing those which made it so difficult to learn to read. Ten years ago it was computed that out of a population of 10 millions in this country, there were 8 millions that could not write, and 5 millions that could not read. True, there were pronouncing dictionaries to aid the learner, but after all, it was excessively difficult to attain to the true pronunciation of a large number of words, from the description given by the editors of these dictionaries. The only way to surmount these difficulties was to have an alphabet based upon the phonetic principle. Such an alphabet had been invented by Mr. Pitman of this city and Mr. Ellis. They had increased the number of letters from 26 to 34, dropping 2 and adding 10 of their own. He (Mr. Wood) had himself tried it in a class of men, women and children, all of whom were unable to read, and he saw very soon that the phonetic alphabet was not theory merely, but that it was practice. He found, after two or three lessons, no two-syllable word in the English language would puzzle them. He therefore considered the new plan invaluable, as supplemental to the present alphabet, but he did not desire to force the substitution of the former for the latter. It was certainly the easiest way of teaching adults to read, and would be found of great assistance to the missionary, the traveller, and to those who were desirous of improving their own people.

A Clergyman's Experience in learning Phonography, and the advantages of the Art in the Composition of Sermons.

As it may interest you to know how I was induced to learn Phonography and how I got on while learning it, I will take the liberty of relating it to you, such as it is. But if you should think any part of it sufficiently interesting to be published, please to append my initials only instead of the full address.

I was altogether unacquainted with phonography, even with its existence, until last December, when happening to be in Dublin, I found in the room of one of my friends a book of the "Phonographic Reporter." I then asked some questions about Phonography, but it was not until the following January that I attempt-