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# The Phonetic Herald

DEVOTED TO ORTHOEPY AND ORTHOGRAPHY.

1<sup>ST</sup> YER.      PORT HOPE, CANADA, MARCH, 1885.      NO. 3.

## EXPEDIENTS FOR LONG E.

There are at least twenty-two ways of representing the sound of long e, as in *eel*, viz:

1,	by e	as in <i>he</i> ,	pronounst	he
2,	" i	" <i>invalid</i> ,	"	invaləd
3,	" ca	" <i>heal</i> ,	"	həl
4,	" ea e	" <i>heave</i> ,	"	hev
5,	" i e	" <i>machine</i>	"	mashən
6,	" i-ue	" <i>intrigue</i>	"	intreg
7,	" ie	" <i>thief</i>	"	thef
8,	" i-e	" <i>grieve</i>	"	grev
9,	" ei-	" <i>conceit</i>	"	conset
10,	" ei-c	" <i>receive</i>	"	resəv
11,	" way	" <i>quay</i>	"	ke
12,	" ey	" <i>key</i>	"	ke
13,	" eo	" <i>people</i>	"	pəpl
14,	" ui	" <i>mosquito</i>	"	muskəto
15,	" ee	" <i>feel</i>	"	fəl
16,	" e-e	" <i>complete</i>	"	complet
17,	" ee-e	" <i>sleeve</i>	"	slev
18,	" ea-ue	" <i>league</i>	"	lg
19,	" cau	" <i>Beauchamp</i>	"	Brəchəm
20,	" æ	" <i>Cæsar</i>	"	Szər
21,	" œ	" <i>fœtus</i>	"	fētus
22,	" aiu	" <i>Caius College</i> ,	"	pro-

nounst, odly enuf, Kēz Colej.

The need of a separate new letter for this sound becomes manifest. Whether it shall be e, e, j, or some still better one is matter of opinion, taste, and detail. It is like a workman with but 5 tools when 13 are needed. 'Tu saw a board he must use a *file*, a *chisel*, and a *hatchet*; and then make a botch of it. Look at *league*, a word of but 3 sounds. Instead of having a letter for each sound and spelling it l-e-g, the foolish tinkering botch of a process is gone thru, resulting in a word of 6 letters, l-e-a-g-u-e: as l-e-g wud be mistaken for 'leg,' it is first spelled l-e-a-g; but e-a so often stands for short e as in h-e-a-d, that it must be made doubly sure by putting a

silent e after g; this again leading to a false pronunciation, 'lej', by making g soft, a u must be put after the g to keep it hard!! We then have a word whose form we must remember like the Chinese with their arbitrary characters, having this difference, however, that ours is partly arbitrary, partly reasonable. We wish the arbitrary element reduced to a minimum, the rational increased gradually till it shall become the controlling principle. We shall then spell as we speak, orthography having become the representation of the spoken word, each sound having a definite letter to correspond. Until that is attained approximately, English must continue to be, in the words of a scholar, "the worst-spelled language in the world."

## WORD STUDY.

**BEAUTY.**—The old form of this word appears to have been commonly *beutie*.—Some meddling etymologist, with a smattering of French, took it for granted, misled perhaps by the eye-appears, or spelling, that it came from the French *beau*, meaning fine, and pronounst bo. Hence the a was inserted. In meaning *beau* and *beutie* are allied, but so far as sound goes they are not. At the end of the word, instead of dropping silent e only, further meddling has changed i to y, altho i is retained in the cognate word 'beautiful,' while neither i nor y is found in 'beauteous! It wud have been better, shorter, and simpler if we had *beuti*, *beutiful*, and *beutius*—at the same time the true etymology wud be indicated. Both the mid and the final changes, being innovations comparatively modern, the one a blunder, the other a departure from simplicity, shud be abandoned.

[A, G, O, Ø, and U onli ar the new letz empleid belo.]

## ADVANTAJEZ OV SPELING BY SOUND.

It woz steted at paj 3 that, in efect, el that iz needed iz familiarizing 8 comon sheps. We can then redili read by sound, and that iz el that iz indispensabli neseseeri. Ther iz no need ov yuzing them in riting unles the riter prefer. With such trivial chenj in jeneral yus, however, the foloing benefits wud acru:

1. On secing a wurd, we wud no hou tu pronouns it and not be so frequentli in dout about it until we hav consulted an efferiti.

2. Hearing a wurd pronounst, we wud at wuns no hou tu spel it—pronunsieshun and speling cöresponding, nou the ar so at varians that wun iz no reliabl guide tu the uther.

3. Speling wud be mor acuret than nou.

4. Ther wud be fewer mistaks in pronunsieshun.

5. Everi time we red a buk ör newzpaper we wud hav mispronunsieshun cörected.

6. At the sem time we wud be tet the analisis ov wurdz

7. About haf ov scool life iz spent in trying tu master the miriad intricasiz ov orthografi, (and then not succeeding.) This time wud be givn tu aquiring mor yusful nolej, and so

8. "Craming" wud becum unneseseeri; and acordingli

9. Les injuri tu helth ov children wud rezult from studi.

10. The prezent orthografi iz self-contradictori and paralyzez the reazoning powerz—hwot iz lernd wun moment haz tu be unlernd and reverst the next.

11. Our wurdz wud be shertend—a saving ov milyunz anyuali in printing riting and so forth.

12. We wud hav a truer denoter ov etumoloji than nou.

13. Our langwej wud cum sooner tu mor jeneral use becauz mor redili lernd by fereenerz. (It apearz adapted tu becum the yuniversal tung.)

KEY:—Pronounce the following letz like the *italic* in the word under each:  
 Aa Aa Ae Ae Ee Ee Ii Ii Oo Oo Uu Uu Uu  
 art at aë äi eel all I nor not note nut truth put

Optional contractions: q for yu, q for yu, as mqtual, mutual; actual, actual.

In writing, the shape Ee is made thus: Ee.

EXPLANATION.

Mr. Charles P. G. Scott, the Treasurer and Corresponding Secretary of the American Spelling Reform Association, requests us to state that the article printed on the fourth page of our last issue, and ascribed to him, was not signed by him in its present form. It appears to have been condensed from an article which appeared in the New York Independent a few years ago. We clipped it from the Toronto World, wherein it was credited to Mr. Scott thru the American Shorthand Writer. We made no change, except omitting a 10th paragraph, and did not intend to imply that Mr. Scott had signed it in its present form, or that he had adopted the fonetic characters in which we printed it. Mr. Scott says that he is unwilling to appear as approving any other fonetic alphabet than that adopted by the Spelling Reform Association, and that he thinks it unwise now to make any changes in proper names.

TU CORRESPONDENTS.

(Matrzov jeneral interest dr ansrd here)

L. B.—All the standard lexicons, in the part devoted tu orthoepy, teach that when wh iz found the h iz sounded before w: thus when iz pronounst h-wen hwen.

E. W. R.—Yu ar right in supczing that it amounts tu a demand that differenses ov sound tu the ear shal be indicated tu the eye by corresponding differenses in the shapes ov the letz.

P. R.—The letz for short o, az in not, iz oval: that for long o, az in note, iz round. Old fashond o was round, perfectly circular outside and nearly so within, iz stil employd in the much-uzed type calld old style in which most ov the betz clas ov books iz now print-ed. Sins erly part ov prezent century type-founders hav made o more or les oval except in old style. Both ar now

in current and frequent use. It seems wel tu now diferentiate them. We thus, in efect, ad a new letz tu our de-fectiv alfabet.

W. M.—Merely reading the HERALD wil be productiv ov a small part only ov the benefit yu ar capabl ov geting thru it. Study it. Yu wil then find it a great help and guide tu a nolej ov the two subjects tu which it iz devoted.

S. C.—The pronounciation ov pray-er, a petition, and there, in that place, az givn in Feb. ishu, iz correct. Worcester sez the vowel iz that in fare, not far, az he distinctly states (p. xiii, §11.) Webster iz even more explicit and dis-cusses the subject at p. xli, §4. He sez 'Two errors in opozit extremes ar here tu be avoided: 1. That ov the vulgar who pronounce wherewhar, careful carful. 2. That among sum ov the edu-cated clases who pronounce pair paer, parent parent.' Yu hav falln intu the second error. Webster also sez 'it iz a sumwhat lengthend sound ov short a.' We canot giv page and pargraf now. The fact iz that between the vowels in fare and fat ther iz a quantitativ but no qualitativ diferens. Sum alfabets propoz a letz(a) tu indicate the longer sound; not good becauz departing from simplicity. In general the shape ov a letz shud indicate quality only. Quan-tity depends on accent, surrounding letz, emfasis and much els. The vow-el in fare iz lengthend by r. . . . . The definit articl iz pronounst the, thi, thv and the. The vowels in the last two ar obscure. In choozing the last we folow the rule ov leaning on the conservativ side. . . . . We hav not space tu discuss whether earth be erth or vrth. Wil do so later and fully. . . . . When we speld the sixtieth part ov an our az minut we wer agen conservativ.

PETERBORO.—Mr. J.H. Long recent-ly gave a lecture before the Y.M.C.A. at Peterboro on Amended Speling.—He traced our alfabet from its origin, showing that we hav not letz enuf for the sounds. Hens we ar driven tu the use ov make-shifts, calld expedients, tu do the work ov the letz lakt. The matr was wel illustrated and ably ex-plaind. The Review sez the lecturer was greeted with harty aplauz.

## 'FAIR PLAY IZ A JEWEL.'

About a year ago a writer in the *Toronto Week* gave az a sampl ov speling by sound a quotation from the *Phonetic Teacher* ov St. Louis. In the original no les than 14 new letr forms wer used. Now wil it be believd that this was put in common type without k. y or other explanation az a specimen!!! He was taken tu task and this gross misrepresentation expozd. Where a new letr occurd an old one (often very unlike) was put in. We wud not refer tu it now but we notis the new paper pres ov Ontario ar committing the same sin ov both omission and commission.—The *London Advertiser*, *Hamilton Spectator* and *Port Hope Times* hav done so tu our nolej. Ar their spectaclz so bespatrd with political gore from pitching intu the other party that they can not see straight! Wipe yur ethical glasez gentlemen so that yu wil not misrepresent yur nabur by caricature. Abuv all mend yur exceedingly bad speling.

This ansr must do once for all. In future we shal simply send a markt copy ov this tu all hu hav sind likewise and expect each tu make reparation in next ishu.

### OPINIONS

*Mr A. McLachlan*, author ov several volumes ov poems, writes from Amaranth, Ont.: "Speling haz all along been a teribl trubl tu me for it iz so outrage-

ously contrary tu nature and common sens. But whether the cuntry iz prepard tu receiv a new system or not I canot tel. I hav generally found that all innovations, whether right or rong, wer very ungraciously receivd on their first anouncement tu the world, but enithing that flatrz the old and establish and runs in the old groo: z ov prejudices and props up a proven humbug iz always welcom."

*Dr. J. A. H. Murray*, the celebrated linguist, Prezident ov the Philological Society and editor ov its new dictionary, once wrote tu a member ov the English Speling Ref. rm Association:—"Az tu practical mezures, I strongly approve ov gradual steps. If speing reformers wil agree on a list ov imediat changes, and plej themselves tu uze them *whenever they can*, I wil join them in doing so. If some hundreds o. men wil do this, it canot be laft down. I wud hav a list drawn up ov words on which ther wud be jeneral agreement, excluding for the prent *all* doubtful words, but including a l thoz like *hav, giv, catalog, tung, det, dout, coud, sovereign, lord, prest, deckt*, whose superfluous letrz ar both *unphonetic* and *unhistoric*, in order tu make a beginning, and in fact tu make the matra practical one, so that peopl wud be forced tu say:—"Some peopl spel this word so and so: I think theirs iz a betr way." The new must I believ be grafted on the old; all past changes hav so been. The Americans ar trying tu do this, and I believ they wil succeed."

[The list propozd iz under way. It wil probably appear within a year.]

### THE FIVE RULES.

1. Omit *a* from the digraf *ea* when pronounst as *e* short, as *hed, helth, etc.*
2. Omit silent *e* after a short vowel, as in *hav, giv, liv, definit, infinit.*
3. Write *f* for *ph* in such words as *alfabet, fantom, camfor, filosofy, telegraf.*
4. When a word ends with a doubl letter, omit the last, as in *shal, clif, eg.*
5. Change *ed* final to *t* where it has the sound of *t*, as in *lasht, imprest, fixt.*

THE FONETIC HERALD iz publisht monthly (except July and Aug.) It iz devoted tu PRONUNCIATION and the elucidation and exemplification ov the *simplicity* and *practicability* ov amending our ORTHOGRAPHY so az tu spel by *sound* approximatly insted ov by *memory*. Price: 2 copiz. 25 cents a year; 5 copiz, 50 c.; 12 for \$1. Az soon az circulation wil warrant, its size wil be doubl and price 25 c. a year. Thoz who take several copiz shud distribute them.—Adres *Phonetic Herald*, Port Hope, Canada. British or U. S. stamps taken.