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KEY: a a e e i o o u u ü  
az in art at ale ell eel t l or ox no up put ooze

ECONOMY.—Charles Lamb relates that the order was once givn clerks in the India office to ceas doting *i*'s and crossing *l*'s, and according to him, the saving in cost of ink was wonderful. If the habit prevail of dropping all redundant or silent letters, the saving in ink, as wel as in wear and tear of nervs wud be great.—*Normal Index.*

TYPE-RITING.—Evry one who puts words on paper shud no what useles lumber ther is in English speling; shud no that silent, dubld, and irregular leters cud as wel be dispenst with as American judges and lawyers dispens with enormus wigs which their English brethren wear in court; that all filogologists favor reform of speling; that only inert conservatism opposes it, and that ther is a good time coming, when 800 taps of type-riter keys wil spel out as many words as 1000 do now, when ther wil be no uncertnty about it, and two years of speling-book drudgery saved evry child.—F. A. FERNALD, in *Type-writer Operator*.

DIVIDING WORDS.—We hav calld attention, more than once, to dividing words—a practical mater to the printer who has to divide properly when the end of a line occurs in mid-word. The question ofn arises as to whether a word shud be divided so as to sho pronunciation, that is, at end of a sylabl, or, on the other hand, shud it sho derivation, for the two wil sometimes conflict. The one way takes *sound* as guiding principl; the other, *derivation*. We believ that Long is right when he teaches (in *Slips of Tongue and Pen*, Appleton, 1888): "In riting it is beter to divide sylabls [words] according to sound than according to derivation. E. g.: Epiph-any, pref-ace." Derivation indicates epi-phany (Gr., *epi* and *fano*), and pre-face (Latin, *PRE* and *FACIES*). Observ, too, by the way, that where our modern sp. has ph, Greek has a singl leter corresponding to f.

PRACTISING WHAT THEY PREACH.—It is wel now that linguists prescribe or endors amended speling. Ther is not a filologist of any note but does so—that is an old story: it is something new tho to see them practis it. This they ar begining to do, and that in Britan, the stronghold of unchange. We cud hardly believ our eyes when we saw it. The *Proceedings* of Filologic Society (British) for 1887 ar just to hand in speling amended nearly as much as in these pages and strikingly like what we hav regularly used for 3 years. Their *Transactions* include chief papers red at meetings and the *Proceedings* above mentiond, the later being a record of discussions, minuts, etc. The papers themselvs ar stil in old sp. That they shud hav done this shows an ad-

vance not trivial but far-reaching and important. We hope soon to find room to giv an extract illustrating the amendments they practis. The reader can then draw his own comparisons and conclusions.

### BELL'S NOTATION.

*World English*, Melvil Bell's latest elort, whose coming we heralded two months ago, turns out to be a 25-cent pamphlet, which however is but the foreruner of the *Hand-book* at same price and which wil giv more ful expos'n. His erliest speech-analysis was .xposed in *Visibl Speech* which claimd to depict the fysical proceses of speech. So it does fuly and mesurably correctly in so far as the mouth is concernd; but the mouth plays a part in speech no greater than it does in digestion. Mastica'n is the first act in the digestiv proces. The mouth plays the subordinat part of a resonance tube to the vocal box with its reed-like vocal cords and belows-like machinery beyond. Indeed the mouth is but a part of the resonance tube, other parts being the farynx, the posterior nares and the nasal cavitis proper. *Visibl Speech* may lay claim to be a natural, but stil arbitrary, alfabet in so far as the mouth, jaws and lips go. Its proper place then wil be instruc'n of the def-dum. With *Visibl Speech* evrything is mouth!

Late in 1886, B. publisht his *Line Writing* which we noticed over a year ago. This was his second plan of nota'n. At the time, our readers wil recolect, we counsel'd his adop'n of Roman letters which he has at last seen fit to do tho for years he has held such to be "futil," "of litl succes," etc. In *Sounds and their Relations*, a work which bears internal evidence of having been ritn in Brantford, Canada, he was particularly censorus of Romanization. When noticing his *Line Writing* we stated our decided preference for a 12-vowel alfabet insted of 19 discrimina'ns there givn. It is interesting to examn the Romanized form of his plan (namely, *World English*) to see if he adheres to his 10 distinctions. He does not: ther ar now but 16. With Roman leters and a lesning by 3 in number of vowels, we expres the hope that time wil bring him into line with the rest of us. The linguists hav adopted a 16-vowel scheme also, (ther ar but 12). Jones has probably expres the general opinion of this last when he rote that the extra "4 vowels wer seemingly introduced with sole object of meeting an arbitrary and fanciful method of pairing vowel sounds." But do Bell's 16 agree with the linguists' 16? No. In reducing 19 to 16, B. has bakt down on his previus claim that the vowel sounds in *tion*, *a*, and *the needed distinction* not only from one another, but from the 16. He now makes them coincide respectively with those in *up*, *and*, and *ill*.

The 16 vowel signs ar got by diacritic dots and strokes above a, e, i, o, u. New consonants ar got by tag *at botm* of six consonants. Javal's experiments show this to be optically rong. For ng, the tail of g is put to n. The usual sign (j) is preferabl. Dropt r is indicated. It is beter always to put r in print tho many do not sound it. The rule givn by Passy is correct for such to be guided by: "r is mute before a consonant."

Another objectionabl featur is that a, e, i, o, u ar assignd their values in *an, ell, ill, on, up*—a national insted of a cosmopolitan basis. We had hopes that B. wud giv a scheme of which we might exclaim *Eureka!* We ar disappointed.

—*The Principles of Eng. Etymology* is the title of Prof. Skeat's new book (Clarendon Pres, 1887). It discuses deriva'n from *sound principls* insted of the superseded study of the representa'n of letters—a word is a word to the *ear*, not the *eye*—the modern basis of etymology. This volume is calld "First Series" and deals with "the nativ element" (which appears to include Scandian and Celtic.) In a proposed "2d Series" the imported element is to be considerd. While the hole volume is excelent, chapters xvi. and xvii. ar specially valuabl to advocats of Amended Sp. As they giv the fonic elements and history of our spelling, showing how largely it was due to pedants (from the Tudor period on) who insinuated etymology *ofn fanciful* and since proved eroneus. The chapters specified brisl with inferences of this kind, many of which ar actualy pointed out by the author who hits hard and strait from the sholder at that. It has been non for years that first-clas etymologists wer on our side. It is now high time for the third-clas dabblers in it to see the propriety of shutting up. Of cours it wil take the more ignorant of them a ful twenty years to lern how much advance has been made while they wer having their self-complacent Ripvan-Winkl sleep.

CONTRACTIONS.

No reader shud be so stupid as to confound contractions with Amended Spellings: they ar essentially distinct. Yet Orthograpy, or the representation of spoken sounds, must take cognisance of Contractions. Such ar establisht in Orthog. The apostrofe (') while the sign of possesiv case is also the acnolegd sign of elision, usualy in midl of a word; while the period denotes the same at end of a word. When letters ar omited from mid-word, it is beter to put the part coming after the omision above the *line*—redily done in riting, but not in print becaus our printers seldom hav such letters, named "Superior" Letters, tho stil comon in French. With us they wer formerly much more used than now. The Shorthand Con-

gres, last year, did good service in apointing a comitee to draw up a list of Contractions for reporters and other riters for the pres as uniformity in such is needed among riters and typesetters. We giv the revized list belo, clipt from Pitman's *Jurnal*, and foloing it is part of the comitee's report put, for illustration, in contracted form with Revized Speling and use of &, alredy establisht: as meaning *and*. Of cours the typeseter "spels out" in ful any contractions he may meet in his "copy." They ar for riters, not general readers.

- \* r = termination *ever*, as how<sup>r</sup>, which<sup>r</sup>.
- ° at end of verb = *ing*, as com<sup>°</sup> coming.
- " = termination *tion, sion, or ion*.
- ce " *ance, ence.*
- m<sup>t</sup> " *ment.*

Omit *day* in days of week, as *Mon* Monday.

|                    |               |                   |                           |
|--------------------|---------------|-------------------|---------------------------|
| t                  | the           | h <sup>d</sup>    | had                       |
|                    | that          | imp <sup>ce</sup> | importance                |
| f                  | for           | imp <sup>t</sup>  | important                 |
| o                  | of            | lge               | large                     |
| h                  | have          | mt <sup>z</sup>   | meeting                   |
| y                  | you           | m <sup>t</sup>    | might                     |
| w                  | with          | m <sup>z</sup>    | morning                   |
| ab <sup>t</sup>    | about         | notw <sup>z</sup> | notwithstand <sup>z</sup> |
| acc <sup>t</sup>   | account       | obj <sup>n</sup>  | objection                 |
| aft <sup>n</sup>   | afternoon     | o <sup>c</sup>    | o'clock                   |
| ag <sup>n</sup>    | again         | op <sup>n</sup>   | opinion                   |
| ag <sup>t</sup>    | against       | opp <sup>y</sup>  | opportunity               |
| am <sup>z</sup>    | among         | o <sup>r</sup>    | other                     |
| am <sup>t</sup>    | amount        | o <sup>t</sup>    | ought                     |
| bec                | because       | bro <sup>t</sup>  | brought                   |
| b <sup>n</sup>     | been          | tho <sup>t</sup>  | thought, &c.              |
| btwn               | between       | part <sup>r</sup> | particular                |
| c <sup>d</sup>     | could         | q <sup>n</sup>    | question                  |
| ch <sup>m</sup>    | chairman      | s <sup>d</sup>    | said                      |
| circ <sup>ce</sup> | circumstance  | sev               | several                   |
| com <sup>t</sup>   | committee     | sh                | shall                     |
| dif <sup>ce</sup>  | difference    | sh <sup>d</sup>   | should                    |
| dif <sup>t</sup>   | different     | thr               | their, there              |
| dif <sup>eh</sup>  | difficult     | tho               | though                    |
| dif <sup>ehs</sup> | difficulty    | thro              | through                   |
| xtr <sup>y</sup>   | extraordinary | togr <sup>t</sup> | together                  |
| ev <sup>z</sup>    | evening       | v <sup>y</sup>    | very                      |
| ev <sup>y</sup>    | every         | wh <sup>r</sup>   | whether                   |
| f <sup>m</sup>     | from          | wh <sup>h</sup>   | which                     |
| fur <sup>r</sup>   | further       | w <sup>t</sup>    | without                   |
| gen <sup>t</sup>   | general       | w <sup>d</sup>    | would                     |
| gov                | government    | yest <sup>z</sup> | yesterday                 |
| g <sup>t</sup>     | great         | y <sup>r</sup>    | your                      |

"A lge propor<sup>n</sup> o ordinary composi<sup>n</sup> consists, as is wel non, o same words over & over. F these words reporters habitually use contrac<sup>ns</sup> o w<sup>h</sup> literary men h not as yet h<sup>d</sup> advantage. F<sup>m</sup> comparisons btwn | quantitis o manuscript w<sup>h</sup> can be product by fast riters w & w<sup>t</sup> reporters' contrac<sup>ns</sup>, it w<sup>d</sup> appear t | sav<sup>z</sup> in time thus attainabl am<sup>ts</sup> to f<sup>m</sup> 20 to 30 per cent.

"It appears t much inconvenience is caused by | vary<sup>z</sup> & inconsistent contrac<sup>ns</sup> o dif<sup>r</sup> riters f | Pres. One uses "t" f the w<sup>h</sup> amor

uses *f that*; "fr" wh some use *f from*, is ofn red & printed as *for*; "sh" wh some use *f shall*, is ofn mistaken *f should*; & longer words, such as *different* & *difficult* (dif<sup>l</sup>) ar occa<sup>ly</sup> confused in same way. These errors giv trubl to printers, & sometimes escape detec<sup>o</sup> altog<sup>r</sup> til after publica<sup>n</sup>.

H<sup>e</sup> obtained lists o' contract<sup>o</sup>s in gen<sup>l</sup> use in principal newspaper offices in London & varius parts o' cuntry, we found t in spite o' oca<sup>ly</sup> discrepancis ther was substantial agreem<sup>t</sup>. Collat<sup>d</sup>, we frame a list wh comprises wel-non contract<sup>o</sup>s o' comon words. List thus compiled was submitted privatly to sev non printers, literary men & journalists, & h<sup>e</sup> received th' aproba<sup>n</sup>, was sent to principal printers in London w<sup>h</sup> request t they w<sup>d</sup> hang it up in th' print<sup>g</sup> offices. Receip<sup>t</sup> met entitles us to recom- end it as a standard list.

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

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  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{3}$  which cud be increast to  $\frac{1}{2}$  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 folowing circular which we anser in brakets [ ]:

"Being now occupied with arrangement of a standard system of scientific sound [speech?] notat'n, the folowing questions ar bro<sup>t</sup> 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 unavoiabl 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- ca<sup>ns</sup>. This is how it wil be, no mater how yu plan.]

4.—I<sup>o</sup> 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 modifi<sup>ca</sup>ns? [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. Comple<sup>n</sup> 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 arranged?"