

a net profit of about \$500 a year on \$5,000 investment. Now let us see what the gas company is making out of the city. It is fair to assume that to make the gas costs \$6,000, although Mr. Ellerbeck says it costs a little less. The net profit then would be \$12,000, less \$6,000, or \$6,200 as against \$500 by the electric light. This to light five miles of streets as against 20 miles by the electric light. When the gas company got its franchise it demanded 21 years for part of its business, and for ten years the exclusive right to charge the city (not to exceed) \$60 per lamp for gas. In other cities where gas is \$3 per thousand lamps are charged for at \$20 per lamp. My object in giving Salt Lake City such a low rate was to pave the way for the general use of the electric light in my territory. I make no large profits, nor would I make half as much as the gas company is making were nearly the whole amount to be clear profit.

As to the comparative merits of different electrical apparatus, I can safely challenge the closest investigation of the Brush system. It has been adopted by the British Government, and there are 4,000 of the Brush lights in actual use as compared with about 100 lights of other systems in this country. The Weston apparatus referred to is very defective although it infringes on Brush patents, and we have judicial decisions against the makers.

You speak of an experiment at Nantucket. Suppose it was a failure, and suppose that lighting other cities was an entire failure. If my apparatus is a failure, then the city loses nothing under the proposition. You appear to forget that I and my associates invite the risk of failure, not the city. We agree to light a certain area four times as well as by gas, and failing, it is not necessary for the city to adopt the light. You avoid reference to the lighting of Wabash, which is a success, as you know from newspaper articles you have seen. In Salt Lake we would not only have a higher elevation by from 50 to 75 feet, but I propose to use a machine three times as powerful, and capable of furnishing 16 times as much light as your 222 gas lamps. We said four times in the proposition, preferring to understate, rather than overstate the matter.

The Council has now had about six weeks to investigate this matter. As the committee have not reported I fail to see that they are in any particular hurry. I am sure that I am not, for I feel as confident of its ultimate adoption as though it were already an assured fact.

Now to a matter personal. You have questioned the veracity of my statement regarding Cleveland, and assuming that you have proved it, have called on this community to doubt all my assertions. The *News* in its first editorial said that Cleveland had not adopted the electric light. I answered that it had, and your own editorial of yesterday admitted that it had. So far my denial of your first assertion was correct. I then went on to add that "Cleveland liked the light so well that towers were being erected for a general illumination." I have since learned that I should have qualified my statement by adding "of the business portion of the city," the residence portion not yet being decided upon. When I left Cleveland I was given to understand from good authority that a general illumination was contemplated. Towers, or posts about 40 feet high, were then being erected on the viaduct, which is a mile and a quarter long, and on Superior and other streets. If the satisfaction of Cleveland with the light is doubted, I can show a letter from the Mayor of Cleveland that will forever set that question at rest. I still, therefore, maintain the assertion of the *News* that Cleveland had not adopted the electric light, was untrue, although I can see that you may have been misinformed.

Yours truly,
C. C. RUTHRAUFF.

WASHINGTON, D. C.,
October 16th, 1880.

Editor Deseret News:

If we may judge by the letters received here from politicians of both parties, there will be no cessation anywhere of the determined fight upon the presidential question. Especially in Indiana, New York, Connecticut, New Hampshire and New Jersey, the democracy will work hard up to the hour of the election. Of course, the republicans, who can now get all the aid they wish in the

way of financial contribution, will cover these States with speakers, and they announce a determination to attempt to carry Virginia, North Carolina and Florida. On the whole, the coming two weeks will be the liveliest, politically, that the country has known for forty years.

Some ingenious democrat advances the idea that the republican gains in Ohio and Indiana are really beneficial to Hancock, because, as the republicans are now sure of the next House there is no longer any fear of currency and tariff changes even if Hancock shall be elected. Thus this genius says the "business" argument, reported to have been so effective in Indiana and Ohio, loses its force as to the Presidential question. But it will seem to the independent voter that this argument, plausible as it is, will not suit. If the democrats advance it prominently, it will be a confession that the danger, otherwise great, will be in part averted by republican control of the House. The people will not believe, nor can they, that the dangers the democrats now seem to admit would threaten us with Hancock President will be in any way allayed by a republican House. Are the democrats so desperate that they look to republican gains for endorsement of their own candidate?

The fair here this season, which closes to-day, has been quite successful. An amusing incident yesterday was a pigeon race, the nimble birds being named for three of the presidential candidates. The other two birds beat the one named "Weaver."

Dispatches continue to be received at the Department of the Interior, showing the situation to be critical in Colorado. The trouble is that this time it is not the Utes but the whites that have to be appeased. Information from private sources indicate that an intense hostility is being manifested towards Meacham and Berry. It is alleged that they gave up young Jackson when any reasonable man who knew anything of the Indian character must have known the result. Some young bucks had come into the freighters' camp and raised a row, in the course of which young Jackson shot the son of the head chief. He was disarmed and given in custody of three Utes and seized by their friends and burned at the stake. LEM.

REFORM SPELLING.

No. 5.

Editor Deseret News:

The National Association of Great Britain for the promotion of social science had this matter before them in print, which was red to the congress at Cheltenham. It was referred to the education department, which raised a special committee upon it, who have given it much attention, and finally passed unanimously a resolution in favor of an alternative method of spelling. They say: Such an alternative method would be at once useful: 1st. For indicating the pronunciation of any word or name that may not be familiar to ordinary readers. 2nd. For teaching the proper pronunciation of words in schools, and thus cure vulgarisms. 3d. For representing different dialects of foreign languages. This alternative method, if generally approved, would gradually become a concurrent method, and perhaps eventually would have generally displaced the present irregular spelling (just as the Arabic numerals have generally displaced the Roman numerals). In the mean time it would serve to indicate the direction in which any partial reforms of the current spelling should be made.

The dropping of silent letters has a wide trial; it costs nothing and saves time and space. The eleven words of the Philological Association are the favorite change. Many articles with letters dropped and other changes have appeared in the educational journals and in the correspondence of the popular newspapers. Among the droppings are: *ue* from demagog, dialog, catalog, and all that class of words, *me* from program, gram and similar words, the final *te* from such words as cigaret, etiquette, coquet, etc., except gazette when it is the name of newspaper. The six rules are beginning to be used extensively as the eleven words do not occur often enough. They are a little more than a protest against the old spelling.

Fears are expressed lest independent action will lead to the loss of all uniformity, to the introduction of all sorts of dialectic pronunciation into the literary speech, and to the destruction of literary property. "Once given over to fonetic spellers," they say, "the written language and pronunciation will change every few years and chaos will be perpetual."

Scholars formally recognize that there is and ought to be standard speech and standard writing. Phonetic spelling does not mean that every one is to write as he pronounces, or as he thinks he pronounces. There are all sorts of people. Every literary language is an ideal. Nobody speaks it perfectly. The literary or standard language is a collection of the most of the best words and forms prevailingly spoken by the most of the best of the race.

"A clear distinction," says Prof. March, "is to be made between orthography and orthoepy. The work of the orthoepist is to observe the ways in which all sorts of people pronounce, and to decide which is the prevailing pronunciation of the most cultured—to decide which is the standard pronunciation. The orthografer tells how to represent this pronunciation in writing. Worcester, Webster, Walker, Phelps, or orthoepists. They have certainly many nice and difficult problems to solve. But the spelling reformers enter into their labors. They take for granted that there is a standard pronunciation. They wish to see it represented by simple and reasonable alphabetic signs. They have to do with writing, not pronunciation."

We are not left without a standard, nor are we in danger of a perpetual change. On the contrary, fonetic printing will soon establish a fixed relation in the minds of the people between the written and spoken forms, so that each will steady and maintain each other.

There will of course be inconveniences still. Says Prof. March:

"Language is not perfect and no spelling will cure its defects. It is a defect, for example, that the same sound has different meanings, for we may not know sometimes which meaning is intended. If one say he gave a boy a box, it may not be plain whether it was a Christmas box or a box on the ear. This defect may be remedied in the written language by writing the word differently for each different meaning. The Chinese is written in that way, and English has many examples of it: *wholly, holy* look quite different; *so flour, flower; sole, soul; wright, right, write*. Whether this is a gain on the whole, depends upon whether the embarrassment caused by the ambiguity is greater than the trouble of learning the variant spellings and

the exposure to using them wrongly. It may be agreed that *box* shall be written for a slap, *books* for the Christmas gift, *bochs* for a hunting-seat, *boes* for a chest, *boghs* for the tree. Will the gain be greater than the loss of time in fixing all this in memory? One thing is clear; the learning of different spellings is long and hard work, and necessary. Every one would be sure to be puzzled by the distinctions a hundred times before he escaped his spelling. One might not be puzzled in a lifetime by the ambiguity. The connection almost always makes the meaning plain, and when it does not a synonym of explanation is added, as teachers in giving out such words to be spelt, mention the meaning of each. This is nothing strange; we have to define, limit, repeat all the time as we write, if we wish to be clear."

As soon as many persons will accept with indifference a considerable amount of amended spelling, a business of printing newspapers and general literature in it will be established. The removal of duplicate consonants saves 1.6 per cent., of silent e's, 4 per cent. According to Mr. Gladstone, in the New Testament printed by Mr. Ellis in fonetic spelling, 100 letters were reduced to 83. Seventeen per cent is a living advantage.

And so we shall go on and improve our spelling as well as our associations, societies, meetings, conventions, railroads, telegraphs, etc., etc. The change must come. No one wishes there should be none. We have the means, and why can we not improve as much in one year as our fathers could in one hundred, three centuries ago? ADVANCE.

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