

learned, and it would soon bring the orthography of the English language to a firm basis, where it will be brief, reasonable, easily learned and understood.

Our spelling at present is very rude and cumbersome. Many words are spelled in ways in which there is no earthly use. Letters are often used in words that ought to be left out entirely. Sometimes they are wrongfully placed in the office of others. There is no propriety in spelling Shakespear 36 different ways. Neither had tizik ought to be spelled phthisic. The former is easy, plain and proper, the latter is hard, ambiguous, improper and can only be learned by being spelled a great number of times. There is no use in spelling such words as laugh, graph, tough, trough, height, dough, weigh, etc., as they are spelled, when laf, graf, tuf, trof, hith, do, wa, etc., would be more proper, easy and sensible. Such words as laf, graf, tuf and ruf have no more right to be spelled laugh, graph, tough and rough than staff, calf, puff and stuff have to be spelled staph, calph, pough and stough.

It has not been long since all such words as book, lock, stick, learn, tell, hill, etc., had the letter e annexed, as booke, locke, sticke, etc. At length the final e was considered useless and was therefore dropped. With the same propriety all such words as make, flake, brave, prove, strange, flange, hinge, etc., might drop the final e and thereby become more proper and better. In the last three of the above named words it would be found necessary to remove the letter G and place the letter J in its stead. Then we would have the proper letter in the proper place.

I could never see the propriety of representing the long sound of A by aa, ai, au, ay, e, ee, ea, ei and ey; as in Aaron, gain, gauge, stray, melee, great, vain and they; or the broad sound of A by au, aw, eo, o, oa and ou; as in fault, hawk, George, cork, broad and brought; or the long sound of E by ea, ee, ei, eo, ey, i and ie; as in read, deep, ceil, people, key, valise and field; or the short sound of E by a, ai, ay, ea, ei, eo, ie, u and ue; as in my, said, says, head, heifer, leopard, friend, bury and guess; or the long sound of I by ai, ei, eye, ie, ai, ui, uy, y and ye; as in aisle, sleight, eye, die, choir, guide, buy, my and rye; or the short sound of I by ai, e, ee, ie, o, oi, u, ui and y; as in captain, pretty, been, sieve, women, tortoise, busy, build and hymn. There are many more of these equivalents, but space will not allow me to insert them; neither is it necessary to do so. All I want to do is to ask, why can we not do away with these non-essentials and let the proper letters fill their proper places? If just this one thing was done it would improve our spelling wonderfully.

A new method of spelling would appear quite comic. This would cause many, especially the young to learn to read it for its oddity. I mean those young folks who are now living and have been taught our common spelling. Many would be reminded of the comic spelling of "Nasby" and "Billings;" although there is more improper than proper spelling used by the above named gentlemen.

There will be no ambiguity in distinguishing the meaning of words if properly placed in a sentence; for they will be distinguished by their position as though they were spoken. The only objection that can be had to reformed spelling is that all of our books are printed in the present style, and the rising generation will not be able to read them if taught a new mode. But that argument does not amount to very much when we consider that before our children are grown, all necessary books will be printed in the new style and will be sold much cheaper than the old style can possibly be purchased for.

There is nothing that can be named that needs reformatting any worse than our own present orthography. Why can it not be commenced at once? The sooner the better. I know of no better place for it to begin than Salt Lake City. Neither do I know of any people who are more capable of doing it than the Latter-day Saints. Let them adopt the plan and the world will follow, for it is the cry of the student, the reader, the writer, the printer, the farmer, the mechanic, and the man of business: "Give us a reformed mode of spelling. It will be a great blessing unto us; it will make our yokes easy and our burdens light; it will save us many hours of hard labor and give us more time and money to spend around our homes to make our lives lives of

pleasure and our houses dwellings of happiness." Let us take the lead, and let the voice cease to be heard, saying: "The children of this world are wiser in their generation than the children of light."

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