

**SPELLING BY SOUND—A SYSTEM ADOPTED.**

A plan was suggested, in a bill and memorial submitted to Congress at the last session, for a commission to be formed of eminent American and English scholars and authors to consider whether a reform in our language would be attended with good or not. It is universally admitted that the simplification of English orthography would be a great desideratum. As now written, it is the study of a life-time for any one to learn to spell and pronounce our mother tongue properly; and, in fact, even after spending that length of time in its study, an infallible knowledge of it is not acquired.

Professor De Vere, the author of a late book, entitled *Studies in English*, says:

"The difficulty is insuperable as long as we have forty-two distinct sounds in our language, and our defective alphabet provides us only with twenty-three letters. The sounds are obtained from the various sources which have contributed to form modern English; the signs we derive directly from classical sources only, without all the help that these sources might give us."

He says twenty-three letters, probably, because he thinks all the sounds made with y, c and x can be made without them. It is readily perceived that spelling and pronunciation become difficult in proportion as there are letters that have several sounds, and sounds that have several letters. But if each letter had only one sound, and each sound only one letter, no one, who understood the alphabet thoroughly, could mispronounce a word which he saw; or mispell one which he heard.

The language of the Sandwich Islands is written upon this principle—in other words, it is phonetically written. The Islanders are an indolent people, but they acquire reading and writing with great ease, and for a people who have so recently obtained a knowledge of these arts, have made remarkable progress. Their success is attributable to the fact, that every sound in their language is represented by a letter, and each letter by a distinct sound. In their written communications an error in spelling is rarely, if ever, met with, even among the most illiterate. What has been accomplished there, among a barbarous people, by the adoption of a phonetic alphabet, speaks more conclusively in favor of a reform in our language than a thousand theories. If the Hawaiian youth can learn to spell and pronounce their language correctly, by the aid of a complete alphabet, certainly the American youth, with such aids can achieve similar results.

It is proposed, if the Commission, referred to above, report favorably, that the United States and Great Britain should agree by treaty that in five years from its date all public documents and all copyright books, in English, in both countries, shall be printed in the phonetic alphabet. This is a subject worthy the attention of both nations, and to consummate such a result would be an incalculable benefit to the entire English-speaking population of the world. But will it be done? However much we might desire that the legislators of both nations, animated by a wish to benefit their posterity and the world, would take this matter in hand and carry it through, we do not perceive any grounds on which to base a hope that they will do so. There are too many conflicting interests to be reconciled. Hoary-headed tradition would cry out in thunder tones against it, and Parliament and Congress could not resist the pressure that would be brought to bear against them.

But we, the people of this Territory, can accomplish this reform. We can do so much more easily than any other people. Our population is diverse in its origin and free from binding traditions. They would eagerly adopt any alphabet that had authoritative sanction, and that would come recommended to them by its simplicity and the ease with which it could be learned. For years this subject has been under consideration. It has rested with great weight upon the mind of President Young, and his interest in it has never flagged. Under his direction, years ago, characters were adopted, matrices for them were imported and a quantity of type was cast. But, whether from ignorance or design, the matrices were very rudely made, and did the characters great injustice. The difficulty in obtaining a beautifully formed type of these characters kept the proposed reform in abeyance. Until, finally, it has been decided by the Chancellor and the Board of Regents of the University of the State of Deseret—President Young meeting with them, and taking great interest in the discussion—to adopt the Pitman Phonetic alphabet and recommend it to the people for their adoption. This alphabet contains forty-three letters. It has several more shade vowels in it than were deemed necessary in what is known as the Deseret alphabet. These shade vowels are deemed superfluous by some, and it was suggested that they should be rejected; but, finally, it was thought advisable to adopt the alphabet in its entirety.

Pitman's characters are available. This is the reason of their selection, and not because they were thought to be the best characters for an alphabet. The introduction of the system of phonetics is the great point to be now gained. The form of the characters is a somewhat secondary consideration. By the introduction of the system of spelling by sound our children and foreigners will be relieved from a heavy tax upon their time and brains. The portals of the temple of knowledge will be thrown open to all; and the ease with which an education can be received will be surprising. Among other great benefits which will follow the introduction of this system will be uniformity of pronunciation.

This great reform lies in the pathway of our progress. We have effected an entire revolution in religion and morals since the organization of our Church; there is nothing to prevent our accomplishing this much-needed reform in our mother-tongue. This business should be taken in hand by our school-trustees and school-teachers throughout the Territory, and be carried through with energy.

[Special to the DESERET EVENING NEWS.]

**By Telegraph.**

**THE LATE TERRIBLE RAILROAD ACCIDENT!**

**Ristori among the injured!**

**GLADSTONE ON THE IRISH GOVERNMENT!**

**CONGRESSIONAL!**

**RIGHTS OF AMERICAN CITIZENS ABROAD!**

**MORE FENIAN PETTS!**

**Explosion and Fire!**

**Chicago, 19.**

Later accounts of the frightful disaster on the West Buffalo railroad, confirm the first reports. Two cars filled with passengers were thrown off a bridge forty feet in height. The real cause of the disaster will probably never be known. Of at least fifty persons in the first car, only four are known to have escaped; many more in the other car were killed. Both cars took fire, and one burned entirely, consuming a number of the passengers; the other was partly burned. The number who perished will probably not be ascertained for some time. Madame Ristori is among the injured. The most of those in the first car were burned to ashes. The

screams of those inside were heard for fifteen minutes.

New York, 19.

A large fire is raging opposite the city on the Jersey shore, supposed to be petroleum works.

London, 19.

Gladstone made a speech to the miners and other operatives of Cheshire yesterday. He did not hesitate to ascribe the existence of Fenian movements in England to the wretched mismanagement of the Irish Government in Ireland.

Washington, 19.

House.—Boyer desired to introduce a resolution of thanks to General Hancock for his patriotic exercise of duty in vindication of the civil laws. Objection was made and the resolution was not received.

The House resumed consideration of the bill in reference to deserters. After considerable discussion the bill was recommitted.

Hooper, from the Committee on Banking, reported a bill authorizing State taxation of National Bank notes. After some business, the House went into Committee of the Whole, to consider the deficiency bill. Butler explained items of the bill, and, in the course of a speech, defended the Republican policy of reconstruction. He said the party would take no step backward. The bill passed, 97 against 50.

Davies, from the Committee on Elections, reported that Cleaver, the delegate from New Mexico, had *prima facie* right to the seat and should be sworn without prejudice on the merits of the case. After discussion, Cleaver was sworn in.

Kerr offered a resolution contemplating the retention of the veteran reserve corps.

After some minor business the House adjourned.

Senate.—Sherman presented a memorial from the citizens of Cincinnati, asking the adoption of a measure to secure the rights of American citizens abroad. Congress said the President was already clothed with ample power on this subject, and the failure to protect citizens should be laid to his door. Citizens of the United States who covertly or openly disturb the peace of foreign nations, must of course take the responsibility; but it was a shame and scandal that the rights of guiltless American citizens should be interfered with, and he hoped the Committee on Foreign Affairs would give this subject their early attention. Sumner thought the American Republic competent to meet this matter, but the Committee would not be induced to act hastily by temporary pressure. The Committee had already considered this subject. The organs of public opinion in England indicated a disposition to abandon the assumption that once citizens always citizens, and thought it would be absurd in Great Britain to maintain perpetual allegiance in view of the immense immigrations he permitted. Wilson defended the Fenians, and said so far as the Fenian movement was for the protection of the rights of human liberty he cordially sympathized. After further discussion the memorial was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

The Senate considered the deficiency in the appropriation bill, and, amended somewhat, the bill finally passed.

The balance of the session was spent in discussion on a financial proposition.

London, 19.

The nitro-glycerine explosion at Newcastle is more suspicious than was at first reported. Eight persons have died, including the Sheriff.

The report of the revival of negotiations between Prussia and Denmark, with regard to Schleswig, is doubted.

A paper is reported to have been found at Wolverhampton showing that the Fenians had organized a plot to plunder all the armories of the militia forces.

New York, 10.

John Mitchell declines the presidency of the United Fenian Brotherhood.

The extensive machine manufacturing works at Penhold, New Jersey, were destroyed by an explosion and fire this morning. Three men are badly burned. Loss, \$100,000.

Lorenzo Thomas will soon be reinstated Adjutant-General of the army, by order of the President.

New Orleans, 19.

The bank of New Orleans has discontinued business on account of the depression in trade.

Havana, 19.

Advices from Hayti confirm the murder of Montez. The details reveal unexampled atrocity.

The revolt in Cairo has subsided. Salnave is actively engaged in the suppression of the revolt at Cape Haytien. The Dominican army is marching towards the Haytien frontier.

New York, 20.

Latest advices from Mexico say that bands of disunionists have forcibly deposed the Governor of Yucatan. There is great excitement at the capital on account of the total withdrawal of the British legation and consuls. It is expected that all the European legations will follow the English example. Instructions to Mr. Middleton are to leave the British subjects under the protection of Mexico herself.

An attempt was made to assassinate Olatorre, the late military Governor of Vera Cruz, while leaving the theatre.

Nearly all political prisoners have been liberated.

Buffalo, 20.

It is pretty certain that the cause of the horrible railroad accident was the breaking of the wheel of the rear car. Forty-four of the dead have been recovered from this car, 23 in a condition to be recognized, 21 horribly charred and unrecognizable.

Chicago, 20.

The boiler of a locomotive exploded at the Central depot yesterday. It had just arrived with a passenger train. The platform was crowded with people. The force of the explosion tore a large hole in the roof of the depot, totally demolishing the refreshment stand, and did damage to the amount of \$28,000. Nobody was injured except the engineer and fireman, both of whom were on the engine, but both were only slightly hurt.

**PURCHASED TERRITORY.**—Since the Constitution was adopted, the United States have made the following acquisitions of Territory:

1. The purchase of Louisiana and the Mississippi valley, in 1803, from France for \$15,000,000. 2. The purchase of Florida, in 1812, from Spain, for \$3,000,000. 3. The annexation of Texas, 1845. 4. The purchase of California, New Mexico and Utah from Mexico, for \$15,000,000, in 1848. 5. The purchase of Arizona from Mexico, in 1853, for \$10,000,000. 6. The purchase of the immense Russian possession, running down on the Pacific coast from the North pole to forty-four north latitude, at which line it strikes the British possessions. 7. The purchase of the Island of St. Thomas in the West Indies.

A census of Rome has just been taken, which gives its population on July 1, 1867, at 215,573 persons, an increase in one year of 4,872. Of these, 30 are cardinals, 35 bishops, and 2,292 priests and ecclesiastics of different grades. The city also contains 2,832 monks and 2,215 nuns, belonging to 61 different orders or congregations; and for religious purposes it is divided into 59 parishes. There are 49 colleges and seminaries in Rome, and 7,360 of its male citizens are in the military service. All the people are Catholics, excepting 4,650 Hebrews and about 800 Protestants.

We clip the following from an exchange:—

The Rev. Norman McLeod, who has for six months been supplying the Church at Berlin, Wisconsin, now goes to supply the Congregational Church at Denver City, and will return to his old charge at Salt Lake, whenever it shall be deemed safe.

The subject of the above notice has made himself notorious for over a couple of years past by his impecuniosity, and his mendacious slanders against this community. Hunting around for money, from place to place, with the avowed object of raising means to aid Congregationalism in this City, he has poured forth, in a mass of verbiage, the rankest falsehoods against a people who have ever looked upon him with too much contempt to notice him. "He will return to his old charge at Salt Lake, whenever it shall be deemed safe," is too good to keep unpublished. If the fellow is as safe among the gamblers, blacklegs and bloats, with whom his associations are mostly found, as he would be here, or as he was here when systematically traducing the entire community weekly, and publicly proclaiming his lies in the most unblushing manner, his precious (!) health will be long preserved from such accidents as his conscience tells him he should dread.

A considerable sensation was caused at St. Albans lately, by the arrival of a car load of arms consigned to Peter Ward, a prominent Fenian in the invasion of Canada, two years since. They consisted of muskets, sabres and a few side arms. Mr. Ward received them, and had them conveyed to a store-house just outside the village in the direction of Highgate.