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THE VICTORIAN ALPHABET

BY
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ounded on History and Etymolojy, and more nearly
aproxima'ting to our prezent orthography than eny
utlier reformd system yet propozde.

“ But in the mind the doome of right must bee:
And so likewise of words, the which be spoken,
The care must be the ballance, to decree
And judge whether with truth or falshood they agree.”

—*Faerie Queene*, v. ii., 47.

Not authorizde in eny way by the Speling Reform Asocia'shon.

e. ii. O.

[ca. 1881]



X

The ALPHABET.

ASPIRAT.

hay
h

CONSONANTS.

Contacts formd by

		Lip and Lip	Lip and Teeth	Teeth & Tung- -point	Tung- -point & Palat	Palat and Tung: <i>concave convex plane</i>			
TRILD					ar				} VOIST
					r				
LATERAL					el				} VOIST
					l				
SHUT	em				en			ang,	} NA'SAL
	m				[n			ng, n'	
	pee				tee	N.B. x = cs		hee, eei, coo	} MUTE
	p				t			k, c, q	
bee				d			gai	} VOIST	
b				d			g		
CEN- TEAL	shee	ef, phee	eth	chee	esh	es, ceo	yhee	} FLA'TED	
	wh	f (ph)	th	ch	sh	s c)	[yh]		
	wai	vee	thee	jai	shee	zee	yai	} VOIST	
	w	v	tû	j	sh	z	y		

VOWELZ.

SHORT		oot	*	ot	ut	at	et	it	SHORT	
		oo		o	u	a	e	i (y)		
LONG		û	ow	[ô]	â	*	ê, ei(ey)	î	LONG	
eu (ew)	ou	oo', oo-e	oa	au (aw)	*	*	ai, (ay)	ea, ee	*	oi, (oy)
u', u-e	*	(u', u-e)	o', o-e	*	*	*	a', a-e	e', ee	*	i-e (y', y-e)
Diphthongz.		Hie Mid Low		Low Mid Hie		Diphthongz.				
		Rounded.			Unrounded.					

In order that the reader may fairly form an opinion of the ease with which rí'tingz in the system of spelling herein advocated may be read, I have somewhat illogically determined to present the applica'shon of it before the exposition, by adopting it throught the present essay. Until now no method of reform has been suggested that should combine accuracy of nota'shon with enough familiarity to the eye to be acceptable to the general student: while on the other hand history and etymology have been ruthlessly sacrificed. I am aware of what has been advanced by eminent philologists in favor of skemze¹ which represent each sound by a separate sign; I admit their logic, I admire their courage, I reverence their ability, and (when I see the results of their labors) I decline to follow them any longer. The advocate of spelling based on English principles (such for instance as Mr. Elisiz "Glosik") produce such monstrosities in their rendering of words derived from Latin—"loakoa-motiv, proavinshul, feinel, proanunsiashun," are fair examples—and those who take Continental view as their foundation introduce so many new faces in place of our commonest acquaintances; "dhî, bî, dê" for example, where I should write "the, be, day;" that until some means have been devised of avoiding both extremes their is little hope of acceptance of any reform by the general public. Such a means I believe to be provided in the system which I now proceed to expound.

In the table at the beginning will be found all the 42 sounds that exist in English, the name by which I propose to designate them, and the letters or combinations

1. If the spellings "covze, skemze, lace, bonze, rulze, mutse," etc., for "coves, schemes, lakes, bones, rules, mutes," etc., are found to be objectionable as suggesting short vowel sounds, it will be seen further on that "cowvz, skeemz, laics, boanz, roolz, meuts," etc., are available spellings in my system. I prefer the former as our ancestors did in the analogous cases of "divde, spherde, barde, gorde, oozde, murde, sliste, ekte, scrapte, pokte, troopte, cubde," for our "dived, sphered, barred, gored, oozed, mured, sliced, eked, scraped, poked, trooped, cubed."

ov leterz by which I wood expres them in r'iting. I wil nou consider them in groepse.

1. *h, l, r*: az in "hay, lul, roar." These ar universalz acnolejd and need no coment.

2. *m, n, ng*: az in "mum, nun, sung." The o'nly doutfool question iz the reprezenta'shon ov such wurdz az "ink, finger, ringer, ingoing." The least aultera'shon from the existing speling iz obtaind by r'iting "inc, fin'ger, ringer, in-going:" that iz, by giving *n'* the sound ov *ng* before a *g* sound, thus avoiding ambig'uity, and in the rare case ov such compoundz az "in-going," adopting a hy'phen. Note that *ng* iz a tru di'graph formd by palat and tung like *g*, and na'sal like *n*. Before *c, q, or k, n'* for *ng* iz unecessary.

3. *p, t, k*: az in "pip, tit, kic." The o'nly dificulty arizez from the existens ov *c, k, q, x* in our alphabet. Wun leter wood be sufishent phoneticaly: historicaly I wood keep aul under this rule: uze *k* before *e, i*; *c* before *a, o, u* and consonants, and at the end ov wurdz; and *qu* insted ov *cw*. Az to *x* I admit its temporary use wherever it nou exists: but it wil ultimatly be replaste by *cs*. See furtfier on this point under Groope 7.

4. *b, d, g*: az in "bib, did, gig." For the o'nly point needing considera'shon see under Groope 8.

5. *f, s, wh, th, sh, ch*: az in "fin, sin, when, thin, shin, chin." Witfi regard to *f* the dout iz whetfier *ph* shood be admited or no. It iz not needed, but az it ocurz cheefly at the begining ov wurdz and consequently ocupize a place among the *p*'s in dicshonariz, I wood keep it at present witfi this provi'zo—that no wun shood be requirde to spel eny wurd witfi *ph* for *f*, nor shood it be regarded az a sine ov ignorans to uze *f* for *ph*; *cs* for *x*; or *s* for *c* before *e, i*. This ov cors implize that I wood alou *c* to stand before *e* and *i*, witfi the sound ov *s* az at present: aulso I wood retain *x* az I sed under Groope 3, but in wurdz like "exceed" I wood rite "eceed" not "exeed." In the utfier symbolz ov this groope we no'tis that they ar not, like *ng*, proper di'graphs, but modifide leterz: thus the *h*

in *wh* indicatse a chanje from a voist sound to a fla'ted wun : in *ph*, *th*, tŕie chanje iz from mute to fla'ted ; in *sh* from lingual-convex to lingual-concave ; in *ch* from lingual-convex to puncto-lingual. In aul tŕieze ca'sez tŕie tru funcshon ov tŕie *h* iz to indicate a modifide fla'ted sound. We shal finde tŕis obzerva'shon ov impoŕtans. No furtŕier remark iz needful on tŕieze symbolz ; which hav no defect except tŕiat ov be'ing formd by too leterz insted ov wun.

6. *v*, *z*, *w*, *y*, *th*, *sh*, *j* : az in "vest, zest, we, ye, tŕien, vision, jest." In tŕis groope wil be found aul tŕie consonantal soundz which giv re'al difi'culty to reformerz : *w* and *y* indeed need no coment, but *j*, *v*, *z*, ar so ofen reprezented in tŕie recevd speling by *ge*, *ve*, *se* espeshaly at tŕie end ov wurdz, tŕiat tŕie corecshon ov tŕis wun anomaly introdu'cez by far more unfamiliar combina'shonz tŕian eny utŕier, and tŕierfor requirze espeshal no'tis. Ov cowrs no reform iz posibil wiŕiout tŕis corecshon, which iz comon to aul skemze. Tŕie necessity for it haz arizen tŕius. When tŕie distineshonz between *u* and *v*, *i* and *j* wer undevelopŕt, and consequently *u* and *i* had to perform dubel funcshonz, vouel and consonantal, it woz a recognizde law ov In'glish orthography tŕiat *u* and *i* wer consonantal o'nly before vouelz : hens tŕie sound ov *v* fi'nal woz sumtimze indicated by ading a mute *e* to *u* az in "doue, loue," sumtimze by retaining an etymolojical *f* az in "of:" yet *v* woz phonetically substitu'ted in "loaves, vixen," and tŕie like. Tŕie sound of *j* fi'nal woz in a similar way indica'ted by *ge*, advantaj be'ing ta'ken ov tŕie soft pronucia'shon ov *g* before *e*, which aroze analogosly to tŕiat ov *c* in tŕie same pozishon. When hovever *v* and *j* became comple'tly separa'ted from *u* and *i*, aultŕiow "doue" became "dove," tŕie u'sles *e* woz stil retaind and tŕie *o* which had been uzde insted ov *u* to avoid tŕie absurd apearans ov "duue" woz retaind aulso. So tŕie fi'nal *f* in "of" and tŕie fi'nal *ge* in "rage" wer kept, and in fact tŕie reform woz at best carid out in a "dimidiun" and moste unsatisfactory maner. We hav nou to complete and systematize whot our ancestorz began.

With regard to *z* the case is similar, the cause is different. Final *s* represents or misrepresents *z* abundantly: the ground being an irrational dislike to an "unnecessary letter" (Shakespeare, King Lear ii. 2) which the Romans had never admitted as an integral portion of their alphabet. We should search in vain for "zele" in Baret's Alveary, either in the English or French lists: *z* is excluded from both. That all three, *z*, *v*, *j*, should now resume their natural rise is allowed by all reformers. A still greater difficulty however lies in the sounds which I represent by *th*, *sh* (in capitals TH, SH; in italics *th*, *sh*). They have been a cause of offense to all advocates of reform. In our present system they are not distinguished from *th*, *sh*: every attempt hitherto made, whether by writing *dh*, *zh*; or by new types; or by accents; has proceeded on the ground that the *t* and *s* should be the basis of alteration: I venture to think that the introduction of a new modifier (*h*) very like the old *wun* (*h*) which should do for voice sounds what has already been done for flatness, would be a simpler expedient, would cause less disturbance in our present spelling, and be more in accordance with my principle of adopting no method which would interfere, however slightly, with the historical development of our orthography — arrested indeed by the artificial restrictions of the printing office and the pronouncing dictionary, but not therefore to be treated as if growth had ceased and premature death had supervened.

7. We now come to the vowel sounds. The short *wun* will give us little trouble. They have been (with many anomalies excepted which a reformed spelling would immediately remove) represented in our language ever since its existence by *a*, *e*, *i*, *o*, *u*. Originally this was sufficient and strictly phonetic: but the sound of *u* in "but" arose in the 17th century, and as usual in such cases no corresponding sine arose with it. It has now supplanted the sound of *u* in "put" and become the normal sound of the letter *u*. The sound in *put* is most frequently represented

by *oo* as in "stood," and if we regard *oo* as constituting a simple sine and not as a digraph² we can retain that notation without ambiguity. I find from Mr Pitman's Phonetic Spelling Book that in this notation I retain 1309 of the present spellings of short vowels, and only reject 104 of the 1413 monosyllables tabulated by him.

I should observe here that long vowels as well as short have hitherto been frequently represented by the simple sine *a, e, i, o, u*; the only remedy to be found in our existing spelling lies in the co-existence of two devices, namely, the final *e* mute to indicate length, and the doubled consonant to indicate shortness. The retention of the later device has found favour with some; but it is useless if new sines are to be adopted, impracticable if digraph consonants are admitted, and clumsy anyhow. If it be desired to mark stress (accent) on short vowels, I would use an accent after the next consonant, thus, "omit'ed," keeping the accented vowel for long sounds, thus, "confid'ing." I would allow *y* to be used for *i* under the same limitations as *ph, x, and c*, for *f, cs, and s*, respectively.

8. Long vowels and diphthongs. It is in the writing of these that the greatest difficulty is found, and consequently that the greatest differences exist in the proposals of reformers. This arises from the fact that we have at least three distinct systems for representing these sounds co-existing in English. We have

1. The system of long-vowel pronunciation used in reading Latin previously to the recent reform in the pronunciation of that tongue, as in the words "mate, mete. mite, mote, mute." This is the most frequent usage.

2. The Italian long-vowel pronunciation, supplemented by diphthongs in which the sounds of the component vowels are more or less accurately retained, as in the examples "clique, fete, rather, wroth, sure, grey, grow;" *ey* and *ow* fairly represent the diphthongal sounds of *e* and *o* that are now becoming common among us.

2. Such words as "zoology" would be written "zoology." We have very few of them.

3. The representa'shon by di'graphs, which I hav never seen satisfactorily expounded: I must therfor dwell on it at sum length, and ase atenshon to the folowing ta'bel.

û	oo, ô	â	ê, ee	î
ou	oa	ea	ei	
au	*	ai		
eu	oi			
	*			

In this ta'bel the first line containz the vouelz simpl or dubeld; the second, di'graphs formd by vouelz that ar conterminos in the first line; the third, di'graphs formd by vouelz wuns remoovde in the first line; the fowrth, those by vouelz twice remoovde; and so on. In the next tabel wil be found aul the di'graphs oमितd in the first.

uu	*	aa	*	ii
uo	ao	ae	ie	
ua	eo, oe	ia		
ue	io			
ui, iu				

A careful examina'shon showz thiat nun ov t'he di'graphs in t'he second ta'bel ar recognizde in our prezent speling unles az abnormal ecepshonz: *uu*, *ii*, *iu* never ocur: in "guard, guerdon, guild" t'he *u* formz part ov *gu* not ov *ua*, *ue*, *ui*; so in "patience, commercial, tension," t'he *i* formz part ov *ti*, *ci*, *si*, and duz not co'ales wif' t'he succeeding vouel. Such instancez az "gaol, aery, people, yeoman" ar ime'diatly recognizde az iregularitiz; and t'he spelingz in "die, doe, due," which hav been advoca'ted az t'he founda'shon ov a system ov reform, ar not digraphic: t'he *e* in t'hem iz az mute az in "dive, dole, dune" or in "mite, mote, mute." *Aa* exists in t'he languaj ov sheep and in t'he skemze ov certain speling reformerz: I doo not uze it. T'he folowing rule wil be a gide in t'his mater. No di'graph begining wif' *u* or *i*,⁽²⁾ or ending wif' *o* or *e*, iz admisibil wif'out unecesarly destroying t'he historical continu'ity ov our orthography. Whot haz been sed abuv under t'he hed ov *v* and *j* wil explain why *u* and *i* cood not hav formd t'he first part ov a di'graph, t'hey wood hav been ov necessity sounded az consonants. *Eo* and *oe* wer dropt very erly in our history.

Returning to our first ta'bel. In t'he 14th century t'he soundz ov *oa*, *oo*, *ou*, *au*, *eu* wer thoze in "broad, brooch, soup, baur (German), and feud." *U* long had t'he French sound. In pro'ces ov time t'he fowr sinze *oa*, *oo*, *ou*, *au*, chanjde t'heir soundz to t'hoze in "road, root, noun, haul," in t'he majority ov wurdz, and t'her can be litel dout thiat t'heze soundz shood nou be retaind for t'hem. T'heze soundz ov *ou*, *au*, *eu*, ar stil uzde in our pronuncia'shon ov Greec.

In like maner *ea*, *ee*, *ei*, *ai*, *oi*, which had in Chaucerz time t'he soundz ov è French (nearly az *ea* in bear), é French (cf *ea* in great), "height, aisle, oil," hav alulterd graitley. *Ai*, *ei* hav asumde t'he sound in "pail, veil;" *ea*, *ee* t'hat in "veal, peel."

3. *Ie* = *ee* in "chief" for "cheef," etc., iz a modern corrupshon to be eschewd.

The reader wil no'tis thät the cha'njez in theze groopse hav been symetrical, thus :

oo	oa	ee	ea
ou	oa haz becum oo	au ;	ea ei haz becum ai ee
au	ou	ai	ei

but in the later groope *ee*, *ea* ar nou leveld in pronuncia'shon, just az in erly In'glish *ai*, *ei* wer sounded alike. This completse my di'graph long-vouel skeme ; which diferz from Mr Elisiz Glosic by admiting *ea*, in the sound asinde to *ei*, and probably in the reazonz on which the chois haz been baste : at eny rate he iz not responsibil for eny part ov my expozishon.

To distingwish Short *a*, *e*, *i*, *o*, *u* ; Continental long *ä*, *é*, *î*, *ô*, *û* ; and Anglo-Latin *a'*, *e'*, *i'*, *o'*, *u'*, I hav uzde the circumflect leterz for those spelingz which seldom ocur, and a modify'ng acute accent (thät iz, on a separat type from the prece'ding leter) for the fre'quent wunz. When the stres duz not co'incide with this accent I revers it az in u'stu'al. Consequently in this system, az di'graphs and circumflect vouelz aulwayz cary the stres with them, and in wurdz with acute accent the rule indicatse stres, and, az I hav pointed out abuv, an accent after a consonant may be uzde for short vouelz, the prezent skeme wil provide for stres az wel az for sound if dezirde.

This seemz to be the fitest place for expounding a pecu'liarity ov my system which ena'belz me to retain a much larjer share ov existing speling than wood utfierwise be posibil. I keep the mute *e* f'nal under the folowing rule : Whenever *a'*, *e'*, *i'*, *o'*, *oo'*, *u'*, ocur in a f'nal sylabel omit the accent and ad a mute *e* at the end ov the wurd. In monosylabelz ending with a vouel this f'nal *e* iz u'sles and may be omitted. This rule redu'cez the number ov accents to a very smaul proporshon. Wer they indeed absolu'tly omitted, few erorz in reading wood arize and we shood expé'riens no difculty not aulredy existing in our receevd orthography. With regard to *u'*, *û*, inazmuch az the sound *u'*, *eu*, *ew*, never ocurz after *l*, *r*, *ch*, *j*, *y*, *w*, *wh*,

but iz aulwayz leveld wifh thät ov *oo'*, I uze after theze consonants eny ov theze spelingz for the *oo'* sound. This enabelz me to keep meny wurdz in the receevd speling, and cannot posibly lead tu eror.⁽⁴⁾

The reader must not houever imajin thät theze accents wood hav to be riten az they ar printed. They wood be indica'ted in script by a slite chanje ov form in the last stroke ov riten *a, e, i, o, u*, similar too, but not identical wifh, thät in Mr Pitmanz *i*, or to the first stroke ov *æ*.⁵

The u'nion ov theze three skemze for long vouelz, viz.: 1. My own ov 1859 for wurdz ta'ken from the French, etc. (mashin); 2. My own ov 1879 for wurdz ta'ken from the Latin, etc. (lo'como'tiv); 3. Mr Elisiz Glosic sli'tly modified for In'glisiz wurdz mainly: enabelz us to reprezent our entire languaj wifh a minimum ov chanje, and consequently wifh a maximum ov history and etymolojy directly retaind or indirectly indica'ted. I abstain from ma'king eny ov the long vouel spelingz opshonal, becauz reformerz ar so divi'ded az to which system shoold be ultimaty adopted; but I may say thät I wood alou *y'* to be uzde for *i'* just az I wood alou *y* for *i*: also thät I wood not interfere wifh the litel wurdz "eh, ah, oh," they involv a meanz ov speling which may sum day prove u'sfool. I hav pre'viosly no'tist thät I omit (') when fi'nal in monosylabelz. No ambigu'ity can arize from thäs.

We hav nou before us a complete explana'shon ov the ta'bel at the begining ov thäs esay and may proceed to sum up the rezults. In the skeme propozde thier ar 67 spelingz uzde to reprezent 41 soundz, about 3 spelingz for 2 soundz: 4 ov theze $ph=f$, $c=s$, $x=cs$, $y=i$ ar left opshonal and

4. I note here, for wont ov a beter place, thät the three wurdz, "a, the, to," which practicaly form a porshon ov the wurdz which they precede, ar sounded before consonants az if they containd a sound clo'sly alide to *u*. It iz not dezi'rabil to introduce a new sine for three wurdz. I therfor leav them in the ordinary speling. It wil aulso be seen thät I take no acount ov the efect ov *r* on a pre,ceding short vouel, az in "first, cord, bard," &c.

5. "h" wood be riten az *h* (turnd italic *y*).

wood no dout soone disapear: tfe number ov typse requirde iz 31, na'mly tfe ordinary alphabet ov 26 leterz, 3 circumflect vouelz, 1 new type and 1 accent. If we stil more minu'tly examin tfe ta'bel we finde 28 soundz riten wiffti phonetic fidelity, viz.: *h, r, l, m, n, p, t, b, d, g, w, y, v, z, j*; *u, oo, o, a, e, á*; *th, sh, wh, th, ch, sh, ou*; 2 for which fixt rulze determin tfe speling, *k, c, g*; *n', ng*; 3 for which perfect freedom iz permitted az to adopting an absolu'tly phonetic speling; *f (ph), s (c)* (inclu'ding *cs=x*), *i (y)*; and 8 long vouelz or diphthongz wiffti va'rius spelingz left to be eliminat'ed by tfe survi'val ov tfe fitest: viz., *au (aw)*; *oi (oy)*; *oo', (oo-e), (u', u-e)*; *eu (ew), u' (u-e)*; *oa, ow, o' (o-e)*; *i, ea, ee, e' (e-e)*; *i' (i-e, y', y-e)*; *é, ei, (ey), ai (ay), a' (a-e)*.

Hens it apearz tftat eny wun hoo duz retain tfe 4 opshonal sinze haz just three-quarterz ov hiz alphabet quite phonetic and háf tfe remainder must ov necessity be so az wel: so tftat five-sixths wil be strictly phonetic for aul purposez—ri'ting, reading, and speling: while for reading purposez me'rly tfe hole system iz absolu'tly phonetic. Contrast tftis wiffti tfe prezent speling in which we hav on a fair estimat (such az tftat in my "English Sounds and English Spelling") not exajera'ted (like tftat ov Mr Elis in hiz "Plea for Phonetic Spelling") tfe folowing rezults. 8 soundz (wun-fifth of tfe system) ar phonetically riten, viz., *h, b, d, l, m, w, wh, y*; 7 soundz hav 2 spelingz each, *p, n, ng, r, s, z, ch*; 5 have 3 spelingz, *f, v, t, g, j*; 1 haz 4 spelingz, *sh*; 2 hav 6 spelingz, *k, sh*; and 2, na'mly, *th* and *th*, hav but wun speling between tftem, or háf a speling each. A simpel calcula'shon showz tftat ov tftese methodz ov consonantal speling three-fifths o'nly can be phonetic. For tfe vouelz: *ou* haz 3 spelingz; *a, oo, oi*, 4; *o*, 6; *á*, 7; *i, au*, 8; *u, ei, eu*, 10; *ee, ai, ú*, 11. About wun seventh ov tftese may be phonetic. Ov cowers az no rulze exist for pronuncia'shon, tftese spelingz ar e'qually unphonetic for reading and for ri'ting. Tfe reader may draw hiz own deducshonz from tftese facts: I wil me'rly

ad that in a wurd ov 2 consonants and 1 vowel the chans ov the speling representing the sound wood be about wun twentieth, in a wurd ov 3 consonants and 2 vowelz about $\frac{1}{2}$ 7th if these spelings ocured with e'qual fre'quency. A larj porshon ov these spelings however ar mere solitary anomaliz or nearly so; az may be seen by refering to my articulz in the *Speling Reformer* nou isuing. It iz not necessary to go over the same ground here; but I wil pas under revew such spelings az by their fre'quency hav a rite to be considerd normal in our existing system.

For consonants I beleev that no speling having e'ven a prescriptiv rite to existens haz been rejected in the present skeme with the folowing eccepshonz.

1. I adopt *n'* for *n* before *g*.
2. I reject *g* for *j* before *e*, *i*.
3. I use *sh* for *ti*, *ci*, *si*, etc., in such termina'shonz az "sion, -cial, -tience."
4. I diferenshiate *h* and *h'*.
5. I cary out the 1625 reform by rit'ing *z*, *v*, *j* for *s*, *f*, *g* wherever necessary, speshaly at the end ov wurdz.
6. I drop aul silent leterz; except the modifierz *h* and *e*.

The speling throo this esay showz sufishently the efect ov these alutera'shonz. For vowelz it wil be beter to giv exampelz.

"busy, women, sieve" becum "bizy, wimen, siv."

"jeopardy, bury, head, heifer" becum "jepardy, bery, hed, hefer."

"laurel, hough, want" becum "lorel, hoc, wont."

"blood, young, mother" becum "blud, yung, mutfier."

"book, woman, could" becum "booc, wooman, cood."

"people, key, machine, grief, deceit, Cæsar, economy" becum "peepul, kee, mashin, greef, deceet, Ce'sar, economy;" "mete, me, meet, meat" remain unalterd.

"great" becumz "grait;" "eh, pail, vein, grey, fame, bay, fête" remain uncha'njd.

"rye, aisle, eye" becum "ry, ile, ie;" "by, bite" are not cha'njd.

“fall, broad, cough” becum “faul, braud, cauf;”
 “haul, draw” remain.

“yeoman, sew, dough, doe” becum “yo’mān, sow,
 dow, do;” “oh, snow, oat, dote” remain.

“do, you, shoe, blue, fruit” becum “doo, yoo, shoo, blu,
 frute;” “too, rude” remain.

This list iz not exhaustiv, but it containz exampelz ov every chanje ov much importans. The reader wil see hou slite iz the price we hav to pay for the atainment ov absolute certainty in reading and a sa’ving ov at least too-thirdz ov the labor nou expended in lerning to spel. In order houeever to giv the system az severe a test az posibil, I apend a pasaj (riten by Mr Elis for the purpos ov testing the skemze laid before the Speling Reform Asocia’shon) in the orthography I here advocate, along with the same pasaj in an absolu’tly phonetic speling such az may be supozde to arize out ov my system when opshonal spelingz shal hav disapeard and o’nly the fitest hav survivde. This houeever may take centu,riz; and in fact wood probably be anticipa’ted by a perfect Phonetic Alphabet ov 41 leterz.

Here and there a few In’glish wurdz may be found in the u’sual orthography which leav no room for dout az to their pronuncia’shon. But this iz quite eccepshonal. Yet we ar shure that our speling woz orijinally phonetic. It iz nou propozde to revert to that principel. But a division ov opinion haz arizen az to the moste su’tabil leterz to employ. The folowing vershonz ov this sta’tment show the na’tur ov such ov the va’rius prop’ozalz aulredy made az cood be conven’iently printed, each az far az woz posibil in the ortho’epy ov its author. In so short a paragraph o’nly the cheef points cood be inclu’ded, but the alphabetic lau iz jeneraly clear, and the ie wil be a’bil to juj prety wel whot the apearens wood be in printed boocs. Meny planz involving râtlier inaccesibil typse had to be enti’rly past by. Hens the chois made duz not implic a verdict. The Execu’tiv Comit’y wil select such methodz az they may thinc require lon’ger ilustra’shon.

The In'glish Speling Reform Asocia'shon az a body iz not responsabil for eny wun ov thieze skemze.

He'r and thia'r a fu Ingglish wurdz ma be found in the u'sfual orthografi, which le'v no room for dout az to thia'r pronunsia'shon. But this iz cwi'tecsephsonal. Yet we ar shur thiat our speling woz orijinali fonetic. It iz nou prop'ozd to revert to thiat prinsipel. But a divisjon ov opinion haz arizen az to the mo'st su'tabil leterz tu emploi. The folo'ing vershonz ov this sta'tment sho the na'tu'r ov such ov the va'rius prop'ozalz aulredi ma'd az cood be conve'nientli printed, e'ch az far az woz posibil in the ortho'epi ov its author. In so short a paragraf o'nli the chef points cood be inclu'ded, but the alfabetie lau iz jenerali cle'r, and the i wil be a'bil to juj preti wel whot the ape'rens woud be in printed boocs. Meni planz involving ra'ther inacesibil ti'ps had to be enti'rli past bi. Hens the chois ma'd duz not impli' a verdict. The Ecsecutiv Comiti wil select such methodz az thia ma thinc recwi'r longger ilustra'shon. The Ingglish Speling Reform Aso'sia'shon az a bodi iz not responsabil for eni wun ov the'z sce'mz.

I may here caul atenshon to the larj number ov homonymz which woud on my system preserv distinctiv spelingz: I giv the prezent orthography in parenthesez wherever thier iz a chanje. "Ale, ail; ode, owd (owed); abare, abair (abear); acent (ascent), asent (ascent); arear (arrear), areer (arriere); analist (annalist), analyst; ewz (ewes), uze (use); yoor (your), ure; weec, weac; weel, weal; weald, weeld (wield); ween, wean; way, wey (weigh); wait, weyt (weight); wade, weyd (weighed); wave, waiv (waive); waste, waist; ware, wair (wear); wail, wale; wain, wane; hear, here; hay, hey; hare, hair; hoard, horde; hite (hight), heit (height); wheel, wheal; peac, pic (pique) peas (peace), pees (piece); peel, peal; pale, pail; pane, pain; pore, powr (pour), pouer (power); pencil, pensil (pensile); pray, prey; plate, plait; place, plais (plaiice); plane, plain; beet, beat; beech,

beach; bay, bey; bate, bait; bow, bo (beau); boar, bore; board, borde (bored); born, borne, bowrn (bourne); bole (boll), bowl; bolde (bold), bowld (bowled); breech, breach; brake, braic (break); brood, brewd (brewed); blote; bloat; tear, teer (tier); teem, team; tare, tair (tear); to (toe), tow; tacs (tacks), tax; tire, Tyre; time, tyme (thyme); deer, dear; day, dey; daze, daiz (days); Dane, deyn (deign); do (doe), dow (dough), discreet, discrete; dosil (dossil), docil (docile); di (die), dy (dye); du (due), dew; chare (char), chair; Jane, jain (jean); jowl, jole (joll); jury, Jewry; kee (key), kea (quay); cane, Cain; cote, coat; coars (coarse), cowrs (course), cors (corse); cole, coal; calos (callous), calus (callus); consent, concent; conceshon (concession), conseshon (consession); cu (cue), Kew; queen, quean; creec, creac; cruel, crewel; crewz (crews), cruze (cruise); gate, gait; gorde (gored), gowrd (gourd); greavz (greaves), greevz (grieves); Grees (Greece), greas (grease); grate, grait (great); gra'ter, graiter (greater); greyz (greys), graze; gro'cer, gro'ser (grosser); groan, grown; glare, glair; feet, feat; fare, fair; fa'ro, Fa'ro (Pharoah); faint, feint; fore, fowr (four); forth, fowrth (fourth), filip, Philip; filter, philter; feud, fewd (feed); flee, flea; flu (flue), flew; vale, veil, theav (theave), theev (thieve); thro (throee), throw; throne, thrown; threw, throo (through); see, sea; seed, cede; ceeling (ceiling), sealing; seem, seam; se'nior, seenior (seignior); Seyn (Seine), sane; sore, soar, sower; sord (sword), soard (soared); sit, cit; signet, cygnet; sinc, cinc (cinque); silishos (silicious), cilishos (cilicious); singul (single), cingel (cingle); sel (sell), cel (cell); seler (seller), celar (cellar); seshon (session), ceshon (cession); cens (cense), sens (sense); Si'on, ci'on; Si'mon, Ci'mon; su'er, sewer; sweet, swit (suite); swain, Sweyn; steel, steal; stake, staic (steak); stare, stair; stics (sticks), Styx; stile, style; sleeve (sleeve), sleav (sleave); slay, sley; slo (sloe), slow; slite (slight), slyte (sleight); sheer, shear; reed, read; reach, reech (retch); reec (reek), reac (wreak); ra'zor, raizer

(raiser); ro (roe), row; roadz (roads), Rodze (Rhodes); Rome, roam; Rone (Rhone), roan; rude, rood; room, reum (rheum); rime, ryme (rhyme); lea, lee; Leedz (Leeds), leadz (leads); leec, leac; leaf, leef (lief); leez (lees), leaz (lease); lade, laid; lane, lain; lo, low; load, lowd (lowed); lone, loan; lincs (links), lynx; leez, lease; li (lie), ly (lye); lucern, lusern; meen (mien), mean; made, maid; maze, maiz (maize); mare, mayr (mayor); male, mail; mane, main; mote, moat; mode, mowd (mowed); moan, mown; mu (mue), mew; mule, mewl; need, nead (knead); Neal, neel (kneel); nay, ney (neigh); no, now (know); noze (nose), nowz (knows); ate, ait, eit (eight); o, oh, ow (owe); ore, oar, o'er; I'l (I'll), ile (isle, aisle); ew (ewe), yoo (you), yew; way, wey (weigh); he'l (he'll), heel, heal; hu (hue), hew; pare, pair; praiz (praise), preyz (preys); hail, hale; tale, tail; tray, trey; fane, fein (feign), fain; frayz (frays), phraze (phrase); valze (vales), veilz (veils), vailz (vails); vane, vein, vain; their, thare (there); they'r (they're); sear, cere, se'er; seal, ceal, ceel (ceil); seen, sene (scene); so, sow; sole, soal, sowl (soul); shore, shoar; sent, cent; site (site, sight), cite; raze, raiz (raise), rayz (rays); rain, rein; roze (rose), rowz (rows); lacs (lacks), lax; mete, meat, meet; mead, meed, Mede; muze (muse), mewz (mews); I, (I, ay), ie (eye); rode, road, rowd (rowed); air, eyr (eyre), are (ere), e'er.⁽⁶⁾

It iz hi'y desirabel that my conclusionz shood be tested by definit statistics: but I hav not time to compile them: nor am I aware ov eny alredy made for the soundz ov our langwaj in their entirty. In Mr Elisiz "Plea" however thier ar complete statistics for the vowel soundz ov monosylabellz: ov which thioze for the long vowelz ar to us by far the moste important. I thierfor apend them, premizing that I take no separat account ov final e mute and thus larjly simplifie Mr Elisiz tabel. I giv first the number ov

6. I hav taken these exampelz from the lists in Mr Elisiz "Plea" without making eny attempt to aranje them. Ov cows eny wun hoo lise to retain the u'sles final e in "bee, die, doe, due," etc., can doo so without departing from my system.

instancez ov each speling retaind in my system : then that ov each speling rejected, giving in brakets the speling to be adopted in its place. Fīnaly, I ad up the to'talz. In too or three instancez I hav corected Mr Elisiz figurz from Mr Pitmanz own copy ov hiz "Phonetic Spelling Book, exhibiting all the Monosyllables of the English Language," 1843, nou out ov print.

	<i>Retaind.</i>	<i>Rejected.</i>
For the sound <i>oy</i> in "boy," <i>oi</i> 28; <i>oy</i> 8	36	
For the sound <i>ie</i> in "lie," <i>i</i> 181; <i>y</i> 33; <i>ai</i> 1; <i>ey</i> 2; <i>ay</i> 1; <i>ei</i> 2 ...	214	6
For the sound <i>ee</i> in "bee," <i>e</i> 24; <i>i</i> (<i>i</i>) 3; <i>ea</i> 131; <i>ee</i> 123 ...	281	
<i>ei</i> (<i>ee</i>) 3; <i>ey</i> (<i>ee</i>) 3; <i>ie</i> (<i>ee</i>) 26; <i>uay</i> (<i>ee</i>) 1 ...		33
For the sound <i>ai</i> in "bait," 204; <i>ei</i> 16; <i>e</i> (<i>é</i>) 3; <i>ai</i> 82; <i>ay</i> 23; <i>ey</i> 6 ...	334	
<i>au</i> (<i>a</i>) 1; <i>ea</i> (<i>ai</i>) 9 ...		10
For the sound <i>a</i> in "fatlier," <i>a</i> (<i>á</i>) 135 <i>aa</i> 2; <i>au</i> 5; <i>e</i> 1; <i>ea</i> 1 ...	135	9
For the sound <i>au</i> in "caul," <i>au</i> 23; <i>aw</i> 37 ...	60	
<i>a</i> (<i>au</i>) 24; <i>eo</i> (<i>au</i>) 1; <i>oa</i> (<i>au</i>) 2; <i>ou</i> (<i>au</i>) 8 ...		35
For the sound <i>ow</i> in "low," <i>o</i> 179; <i>oa</i> 60; <i>ow</i> 32 ...	271	
<i>eau</i> (<i>o</i>) 2; <i>ew</i> (<i>ow</i>) 1; <i>oo</i> (<i>oa</i>) 2; <i>ou</i> (<i>ow</i>) 15 ...		20
For the sound <i>ue</i> in "rue," <i>u</i> (<i>ú</i>) 14; <i>oo</i> 63; (<i>r</i>) <i>ew</i> 8; (<i>r</i>) <i>eu</i> 1(<i>í</i>) ...	86	
<i>ui</i> (<i>ú</i>) 3; <i>o</i> (<i>oo</i>) 21; <i>ou</i> (<i>oo</i>) 13; <i>wo</i> (<i>oo</i>) 1 ...		38
For the sound <i>ow</i> in "now," <i>ou</i> 73 ...	73	
<i>ow</i> (<i>ou</i>) 28 ...		28
For the sound <i>ew</i> in "dew," <i>u</i> 33; <i>eu</i> 1; <i>ew</i> 18 ...	52	
<i>you</i> (<i>yoo</i>) 3; <i>yu</i> 1 ...	1	3
<i>ieu</i> (<i>eu</i>) 1; <i>iew</i> (<i>ew</i>) 2; <i>ui</i> (<i>u</i>) 2 ...		5
Totalz ...	1543	187
Aproximat ra'shio ...	8	1

7. Mr Elis haz 21: Mr Pitman givz 10 instancez o'ny: I hav given the numberz least fa'vorabil to myself in aul doutfool instancez.

I retain then more than eithers of the existing long vowel spellings.

Too entirely distinct bodies exist among spelling reformers: wun seeks to establish an ideal alphabet, a perfect orthography, an absolute correspondence between speech and written symbol: the other would lop of excrescences, trim up deficiencies, train straggling branches and clip the outside into form. The former body has been working under excellent guides for 40 years, and the public remains unconvinced: the latter are just beginning to move under the auspices of the Philological Society; with what probable result may be seen from their recent determination to replace *s* by *z* wherever it has the sound of *sh*: *i. e.*, they desire to replace wun anomaly by another in order by so doing to lessen the number of anomalies in the language. Surely this needs no comment. My method on the contrary has been to proceed from general principles to particulars. I started with a completely phonetic alphabet, and then considered, taking the sounds wun by wun, how far it was possible, while retaining a perfectly phonetic system for reading and a minimum of alternatives for spelling, to accommodate my alphabet to the existing order of things. The result has been a conviction that the statements of reformers have been in many respects greatly exaggerated, and that a moderate amount of change would suffice. From this conviction the present essay has grown up. My doubt is now whether I have not changed even now more than is needful. For example, whether I might not write *ah* for *ä* to avoid the use of accents, etc. But trial would soon determine these lesser points.

Yet the question may be asked, Why add to the numerous schemes already proposed? If none of the proposals differing in so many ways have found favour with the public it is not likely that a new wun involving no further discovery, no additional principle, can possibly succeed. To this I reply that all schemes yet proposed fail in wun or too essential; either they require too many sounds to be given to wun

speling, and so looz aul claim to be considerd phonetic, or els they introduse such violent cha'njez az to be ilejibil by readerz aquainted o'nli wifh the receevd system; destroy the historie continu'ity ov the langwaj; obliterate meny etymolojical facts storde in our prezent orthography which ar u'sful az pointing to the sowrceez whens wurdz hav been derivde; and make the gap to be brijd o'ver by those hoo hav tu lern bothe olde and new alphabets unecesarily wide. On the contrary I wish to retain every speling that can possibly be retaind wifhout viola'ting the fundamental condishon that our new alphabet must be absolu'tly phonetic for reading purposez: I wish to introduce the smaulest number ov spelingz for each sound consistent wifh the historie fact that we hav had three main sowrceez for our spo'ken tung—An'glo Saxon; Latin throo French; Latin and Greec direct. I wood reject no meanz ov symbolizing—di'graph, accent, modifier or new leter—that iz in un'nizon wifh the prece'ding history ov our lan'gwaj, thow I uze new methodz to the smaulest extent posibil: and thus I obtain a rezult az to which I confidently chalenj comparizon wifh eny method az yet set forth. Moro'over by a slite chanje in my vowel system I can reprezent aul erlier authorz (Chaucer for instans) more satisfactorily than haz been hitfiertoo acomplisht. But I must not be tempted to dwel on such materz here. I content myself wifh apealing for suport to the stu'dent ov lan'gwaj, becauz I try to preserv the history ov our speech from rash inova'shon and o'nly cary out reformz wel inishiated by our ancestorz. I apeal to reformerz ov every kinde becauz thier iz no chanje introduste in my system which iz opozde to the skemze ov eny ov them: I retain indeed much they wood wish to reject, but I reject nothing whotever that eny wun ov them dezirze to retain. They difer so ho'plesly amung themselvz that agreement iz imposibil except by compromize. Wun wel-nown reformer declarze that he had ratfier hav no reform than admit wun baste on the In'glish pronunsia'shon ov the long vowelz: an-

utfier ov stil graiter eminens haz exprest tſie convers opinion: a third haz publisht hiz vew tſiat our prezent alphabet iz wurs tſian nun: a fowrth haz propozde a ſpeling not lejibil wifout long ſtudy: to efect enything they muſt compromize; and tſie o'ny efectiv compromize muſt be tſiat nou propozde, na'mly, to go az far az aul go to gettier and tſiare ſtop—for tſie prezent. I apeal tu philolojists to be content wif a reform which complete five-sixths ov tſie wure yet duz not create a gap between our existing and fu'ture printed boocs, to leap over which to tſieir ſtalwort limz wood be a ſmaul mater, but to mortalz ov les divine ſtature wood be imposibil. I apeal to tſie printer to suport a ſkeme which duz not introduce 13 new leterz or 15 diacritics, but can be printed wif existing tſype in its entirty by uzing "fi" for "ſi," and if "tſi, ſſi," ar left *pro tempore* undiferenſhia'ted can be printed wifout eny adifional tſype whotever. Fi'naly, I apeal to tſie jeneral reader to suport a propo'zal which wood lead to a graiter economy tſian eny utfier, wood entail les la'bor on aul children or adults hoo wood hav to lern bothe ſystemz, wood involv a minimum ov chanje, appear fairly familiar, hav a graiter chans ov leading to reform in pronuncia'shon, and abuv aul be free from tſiat endeavor after finality which haz been tſie roc on which ſo meny reformz hav ſtruc and ſhiprect uterly.

Postscript—I hav no dout tſiat erorz and inconfiſtenciz may be found in my own ſpeling ov tſis eſay: if ſo, I dezire tſiat they be atributed tu confuſion on my part, ari'zing from my having juſt nou to practis, not too or three, but meny kindze ov ſpeling ſimulta'neouſly. They ar certainly not tſie rezult ov eni ca'rleſnes ov tſie printer; hooz paſhens muſt hav been ſo'rly tride in ſeting up and corecting from manuſcript ſo difiult to folow az that ov tſie prezent articul. I auſo dezire to ſtate tſiat my leter in the laſt number ov tſie Jurnal woz printed not in my own ſpeling but in tſie editorz.

Note: adreſt to readerz hoo like myſelf diſlike accents.—Accents may be entirly avoided tſhus: For *á* rite *ah* az in "rahtſier, cahm;" anglicize *í, é* by *e, a* az in "maſhene, tate-a-tate;" and finally drop (') entirly az in "patent, ſecret, tiny, potent, rural." Suſh a ſpeling

wood not sute educashonal or scientific treatisez, but wood be quite unaccepshonabil for corespondans or literary and artistic produchonz. It wood be more like our prezent orthography than the 1623 Folio ov Shakespear iz, and nearly az like az the 1611 edishon ov the Bibel. I may ad thät my system leadz to a revival ov meny olde formz, e.g. "plaste, uzde, bolde, namde, finde" ar aul good 16th century spelingz. The gramarianz hoo hav regularizde our gramar by leveling *-t*, *-ed*, *-de* and *-te* in our verbal inflechshonz under wun form *-ed*; and in like maner persist in retaining *-s*, *-se*, *-z* and *-ze* in our substantival inflechshonz under wun form *-s*; hav dun az much mischief by destroying our forfahtfierz good wurc az eny uther clas ov medlerz in orthographical materz. While making aparent simplifichashon to the ie they hav introduste real disorganizashon for the ear in materz which primarily concern thät organ. This iz I trust a fairly sufishent exampel ov my unaccented form ov speling for ordinary purpozez. On account ov its reviving so meny spelingz ov the Shakespearian time I caul this modifichashon ov my Historic notashon **THE ELIZABETHAN ALPHABET.**

PS. Sins thäs tract woz printed in the *Phonetic Journal* I hav submitted it to several good scolarz hoo ar opozde tu reform. They particulary object to *sh* in "pashens, judishal, scanshon," and the like; and sujest thät we shood rite "paciens, judicial, scansion, vizion," etc., in the belief thät it iz not too late to revive the olde pronuncia-cion az *-si-* or *-sy-*. If thäs cood be dun I shood much prefer it to altering the speling: but can it be?



C. H.

~~G 2053~~

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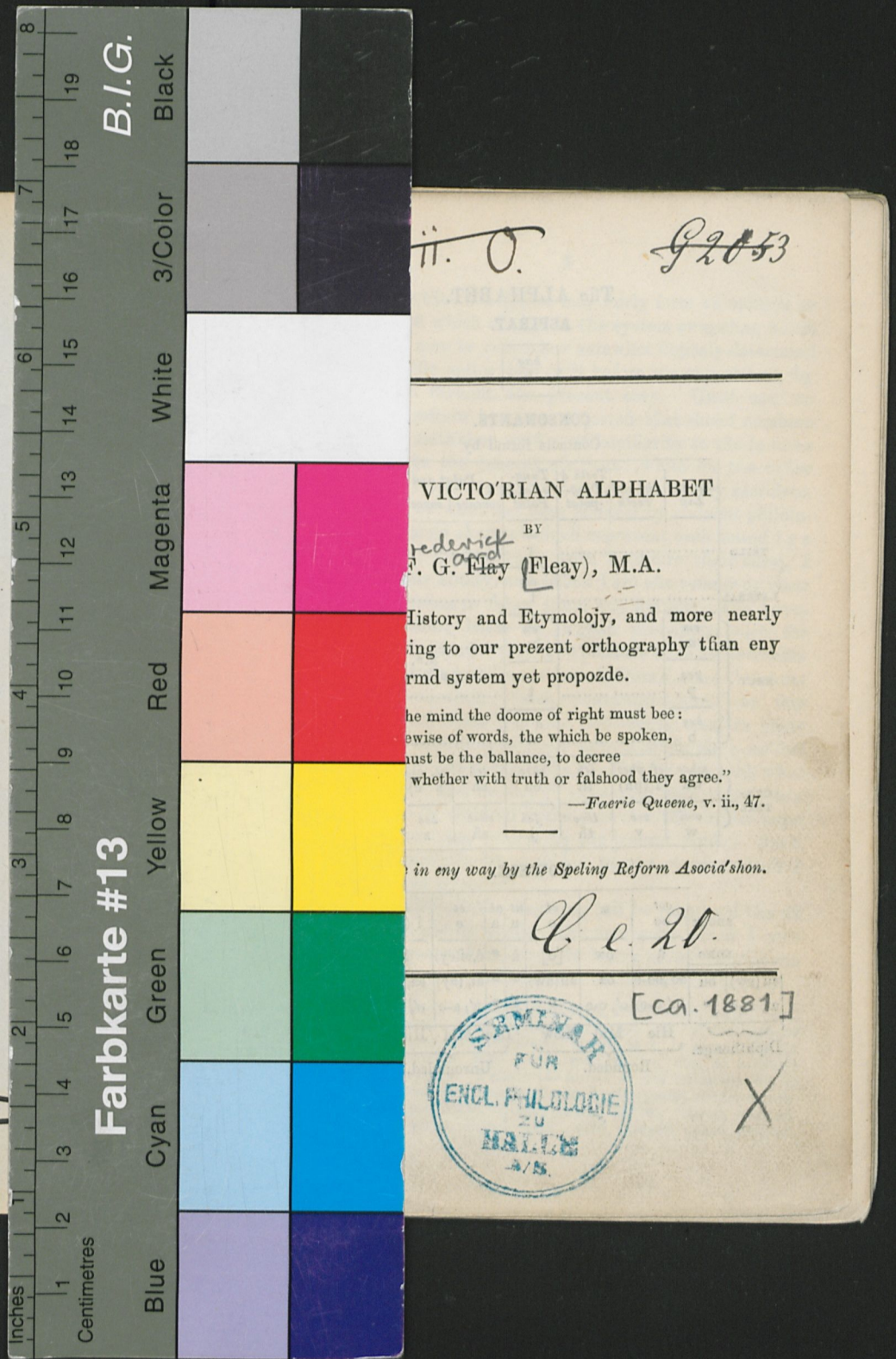
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VICTORIAN ALPHABET

BY
Frederick
F. G. Fleay (Fleay), M.A.

History and Etymology, and more nearly
coming to our present orthography than any
former system yet proposed.

Let the mind the doome of right must be:
the sense of words, the which be spoken,
must be the ballance, to decree
whether with truth or falsehood they agree."
—*Faerie Queene*, v. ii, 47.

Not to be used in any way by the Spelling Reform Association.

C. e. 20.



[ca. 1881]

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