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BRAEKING DHE SPEL

AN APEEL TO COMON SENS

WITH A FORWURD BIE
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FORWURD

SPELING shood be dhe simplest ov aul arts: az eezy az A, B, C, widh nuthing to remember but dhe naemz, or soundz, ov dhe leterz, and for reeding, dhaer shaeps, or apeerans. In sum living langgwejez - Spanish, Italyan, Welsh, Duch - and in ded Greek and Latin (if properly taut) reeding and speling ar az eezy az dhat. But Inglish - a tung in dhe simpl speling ov which wun kworter at leest ov dhe hueman raes iz direktly interested, and which dhe rest would gladly lurn to spel if dhae kood; Inglish, widh its gramar dhe simplest, widh its vokabuelary dhe richest ov living langgwejez - prezents in its orthografy, or orthodox speling, a mas and maez ov anomaliz and difikultiz, which maek dhe akwizishon ov dhe korekt pronunsaeshon and dhe konvenshonal speling an insoluebl problem to naetiv and forrener aliek. Dhe majorrity ov our oen peopl never akwier maastery ov dhe langgwej. Eeven dhe eduekaeted man ov biznes riets widh a dikshonary at hiz elboe. Korekt speling and pronunsaeshon ar dhe aristokratik privilej ov dhe fue. Dhe orthodox speling ov Inglish haz, in kors ov tiem, oing to wel-noen historrikal kauzez and for wont ov authorritaetiv reajustment to dhe unkonshus but inevitabl chaenjez aulwaez at work in pronunsaeshon, kum to hav soe litl relaeshon to dhe audibl speech dhat evry man, wooman, chield, who wood faen reed, riet, and speek a tolerabl Inglish must set out to lurn tuu distinkt and independent langgwejez - dhe wun, Inglish az spoeken; dhe udher, Inglish az printed. Our speling haz bekum a mistery, a konvenshon, widhout ruulz or reezon; a konstant eksersiez ov memory, a konstant rekors to dhe dikshonary, a perpetueal seting ov konundrumz, a tiersum gaem ov hied and seek, an egzaasperaeting waest ov tiem and enerjy, which miet be very much beter emploid. Noe mortal kan tel at siet hou an Inglish wurd iz to be pronounst, nor hou to riet an Inglish wurd hard for dhe furst tiem. Dhe kaos ov Inglish orthografy iz unsientifik, inartistik, unbiznesliek; and evry kompetent juj, be hiz interests eduekaeshonal, skolarly, or simply komurshal, be he teecher, or stuedent, or manuefaktuerer and murchant, iz in faevor ov reform. Whie, dhen, tarry dhe wheelz ov dhe Reform-charryot?

Evry atempt at reform, in dhis department, enkounterz tuu tremendus obstaklz. In dhe furst plaes, speling reformerz ar up agaenst dhe apathy, dhe ignorans, and dhe prejoodis ov dhe adult popuelaeshon, dhe groen-ups, eduekaeted or semy-eduekaeted. Dhoez huu hav akwierd dhe teknikal trik ov speling, and forgotten, or never konsiderd, whot dhaer profishensy haz u kost dhem, ar apt to sae, widh bekuming modesty, dhat whot dhae hav dun udherz kan duu liekwiez: ar apt to protest, having lurnt to spel aafter wun fashon, agaenst being aaskt to unlurn dhe leson and start afresh; ar apt to deklaer dhat, to reeprint English proez and poetry in a nue fashon, houeever simpl and sientifik, wood destroi for dhem aul dhe charm ov reeding and aul fasility ov rieting dhe langgwej. Dhae wil seldom konsider dhe eduekaeshonal interests ov dhe rieting jeneraeshon, or dhe komurshal interests ov dhe naeshon, twenty yeerz hens. Having noe dezier or intenshon to amend dhaer oen wae ov speling, dhae fael to apreeshyaet dhe damnosa hereditas - dhe kostly and ruinus legasy - dhae ar bekweedhing to dhaer children and dhaer children'z children.

Dhe eduekaeshonal arguement for a reform ov our speling aut aloen to karry dhe dae. Evry chield huu lurnz to spel korekty haz, on dhe averej, waested a thousand ourz ov skuul-tiem in akwiering dhis preshus, akomplishment. Dhat figer, multiplied thruout dhe naeshon, dhe Komonwelth, dhe Empier - to sae nothing ov udher landz and peeplz - miet giv sum iedea ov dhe sheer waest ov tiem and enerjy in dhe eduekaeshon ov dhe yang. Dhe indirekt reakshon ov an irashonal speling upon groing and inkwiering miendz shood not be forgotten. Dhe provurbyal incuria ov dhe English miend - its indiferens to dhe aplikaeshon ov siëntifik intelijens and method to dhe problemz ov lief - iz, in mie opinyon, not unkonekted widh dhe irashonality ov our speling. If we had had a reform in our speling, we shood not stil be klamoring for dhe adopshon ov dhe metrik sistem in our waets and mezherz. Our orthografy defeets dhe atempts ov forrenerz to lurn English; it iz a bar to dhe wieder, perhaps dhe aulmoest uenivursal, emploiment ov English in dhe interkors, komurshal and spiritueal, ov mankiend.

Speling reform bekumz, from dhis point ov vue, a biznes propozishon, if not for todae, at leest for tomorroe, and evry dae aafter. Ekonomy ov tiem, substans and labor, fasility ov komuenikaeshon az wel widhout az widhin dhe strikty English-speaking world, kontaen a promis ov welth "paasing dhe dreemz ov avaris," if not for dhis or dhat individueal, yet for dhe naeshon az such, and for dhe jeneraeshonz to kum. English men ov biznes, dhe murchant, dhe manuefaktuerer, hav inkurd meny reproechez ov laet for dhaer wont ov faeth in siëns, in up-to-daet methodz, for dhaer short siet, and faeluer to adapt dhemselvz to dhe needz ov dhe market, aktueal and potenshal. Kan wun defend dhem from such reproechez, in vue ov dhe fakt dhat dhe English biznes world haz not yet insisted on dhe adopshon ov dhe metrik sistem and dhe simplifikaeshon ov English speling?

But heer krops up dhe sekond cheef difikulty enkouterd bie Speling Reform: dhe Reformerz ay not agreed among dhemselvz az to dhe reformz to be adopted; dhaer ar haaf a dozen or mor kompeeting skeemz, and dhe plaen man iz driven bak upon dhe establisht dikshonary. But at leest aul Reformerz agree in kondeming dhe egzisting orthografy; and it haz been wel sed dhat evry wun ov dhe kompeeting skeemz wood be mor siëntifik and mor satisfactory dhan dhe prezent mudl. Evry ekspert must admit dhat for a kompleetly adekwet and truuly fonetik reform, a good meny leterz must be aded to dhe alfabet; and dhis prospekt iz won ov dhe moest alarming feetuerz ov sum ov dhe propoezd solueshonz. It iz just heer dhat dhe skeem ov dhe Simplified Speling Society kumz in. Fue, if eny, memberz ov dhe Society wood denie dhat, for a fooly siëntiftk orthografy, which wood aulsoe be dhe simplest orthografy, ov English, sum inkrees in dhe alfabet iz nesenary; but, for such a reform, governmental and parlamentary authorrity wil be nesenary, and such authorrity iz hard to obtaen. Dhaer ar noe voets in fonetik speling az an elekshoneering krie. Meenwhiel, Simplified Speling maeks a good begining widh dhe egzisting alfabet, and haz kum wunderfooly neer dhe fonetik kanon: "wun sien, wun sound." It gets rid ov moest ov dhe anomaliz and konfuezhonz ov dhe establisht tirany; it oferz a faerly self-konsistent method; it iz rashonal, eekonomikal, and eezily akwieyd; it kan be adopted in toto or bie degyeez; it haz been pyuuvd a

sukses in skuul teeching. [1] Shood it but surv ultimetly az dhe pioneer ov a stil mor kompleet and radikal reform, shood it sukseed in dizolving sum ov dhe prejoedis agaanst evry reform, bie dhe sweet reezonablnes and moderaeshon ov its klaemz, it wil mor dhan justifie dhe paenz and laebor which its promoeterz hav bestoed upon it. To dhe printer it maeks a speshal apeel, for it aasks him meerly to ekonomiez; he need niedher skrap nor multiplie hiz tieps. To dhe chield it oepen a short kut to literatuer and lurning, for aktueal eksperiment haz shoed dhat dhe chield huu starts on Simplified Speling arievz at reeding eeven dhe kurrent hiëroglifiks ov English mor eezily and kwikly dhan hiz feloe huu haz been nurtuerd soelly on konundrumz and enigmaz ov orthogyafy. It lietenz and brietenz dhe teecher'z laeborz. It saevz tiem, muny and toil. It apeelz to komon sens. Shal it apeel hoelly in vaen?

REGINALD W. MACAN.

[1] See S.S.S. [Pamflet Nr. 7](#), *The Best Method of Teaching Children to Read and Write: Reports of Experiments Conducted in Sixteen Schools*.

BRAEKING DHE SPEL

It iz dhe jeneraeshonz ov children to kum huu apeel to us to saev dhem from dhe aflikshon which we hav enduerd and forgotten. - WHITNEY.

WE duu not noe huu woz dhe furst man to riet a wurd. For long sentueriz langgwey egzisted oonly az speech. Dhe invenshon ov riten sienz to reprezent dhe spoeken langgwey woz a momentus advaans in sivilizaeshon. It maed it posibl to komuenikaet thauts to dhoez at a distans, far beyond dhe raenj ov dhe vois, thauts dhat wood serviev eeven when dhe vois ov dhe man dhat konseevd dhem had long been husht bie deth.

Dhis iz not dhe plaes to diskus dhe gradueal development ov rieting; hou sum naeshonz kaem to uez a sien to designaet a hoel wurd, and udherz uezd it for a silabl. Dhe naeshonz dhat we noe best prefurd an alfabet in which eech sien reprezented wun sound. It iz kleeer dhat dhaer ar fueër diferent soundz dhan diferent silablz, and dhaerfor dhat we need fueër sienz if we let eech represent a sound oonly.

With such an alfabet, in which eech sien reprezents wun sound, and eech sound haz its oen sien, speling bekumz a very simpl mater; for if U noe dhe soundz ov a wurd, U kan at wuns riet dhe korresponding sienz. For instans, if U noe dhat dhe sien for dhe sound *b* iz dhe leter *b*, dhe sien for dhe short sound *e* iz dhe leter *e*, and dhe sien for dhe sound *d* iz dhe leter *d*, dhen on heering dhe soundz ov dhe wurd *bed* U noe dhat dhe speling iz *bed*.

If such an alfabet iz in ues, dhen aul we hav to teech dhe chield iz dhe sienz korresponding to dhe soundz.

DEFEKTS OV DHE PREZENT SPELING

Let us konsider whedher our prezent English speling kan be lurnt in dhis simpl and rashonal fashon. Up to dhe point of $b e d = bed$ (not a very advaanst point) aul iz plaen saeling. But taek anudher wurd: Dhe chield heerz dhe sound ov *d*, dhe sound ov *e*, and agaan dhe sound ov *d*. Dhe speling dhaerfor shood be *ded*; but we hav to inform dhe chield dhat dhis iz not dhe kaes, and dhat dhe wurd kontaenz a sielent *a*. On dhe udher hand, when dhe chield seez dhe wurd *bead*, we hav to tel him dhat heer dhe *a* iz not sielent; dhe tuu sienz *ea* heer hav dhe saem value az *ee* in *feed*. Dhe

child iz toeld dhat dhe wurd *toe* iz spelt widh *oe*. But when he meets dhe wurd *toad* he iz toeld not to spel *toed*; and when he kumz to *poet*, we worn him agaenst dhe pronunsiyaeshon *pote*. Dhe child lurnz dhat *road* haz *oa*, liek *toad*; but when he proseedz to riet "The man road in a carriage, and the boy road a boat," we hav to eksplaen dhat auldhoe dhe soundz ar dhe saem in dheez three wurdz, he must lurn a diferent speling for eech - *road*, *rode* and *rowed*.

Dhe child lurnz dhat dhe vouel in *bit* iz riten widh dhe leter *i*; but he iz not aloud to giv dhe saem pronunsiyaeshon to dhe leter *i* when he meets it in *find*. In dhis wurd, he iz toeld, dhe leter *i* haz dhe saem value az in *l*. Az he uezez dhis leter in *find* and *l*, he wil natueraly wont to uez it in *my*, *high*, *eye*. But if he duz soe, he iz ashuurd dhat dhis iz rong. Nothing in dhe sound ov dhe wurd *eye* shoez dhat it shood be spelt diferently from *l*.

Dhe child is toeld dhat dhe soundz ov dhe wurd *true* ar riten *t r u e*. A wurd iz uterd widh anudher sound at dhe end, which he noez iz riten *th*; soe he spelz *trueth*, oenly to be toeld dhat dhis iz rong and dhat heer dhaer iz noe *e*. Having lurnt dhe speling ov *true*, dhe child heerz a wurd in which dhe *t* iz at dhe end insted ov dhe begining, and proseedz to riet *ruet*; rong agaen. Having lurnt dhat dhe speling iz *root* he heerz a wurd kontaening dhe saem soundz, but widh *f* in frunt; soe he riets *froot*, and haz to lurn dhat he must riet *fruit*. Or, having lurnt dhe speling ov *root*, he heerz a wurd very much liek it, but ending in *d* insted of *t*, and riets "he was *rood*." Wuns mor dhe puur child haz gon rong, thruu noe fault ov hiz oen.

Not eeven dhe konsonants ar represented in a konsistent wae. Dhe meer sound ov dhe wurd *knit* duz not tel us dhat we must riet it widh *k*; dhe furst sound ov *sit* and *city* iz dhe saem, nuthing shoez dhat *s* iz not riet in boeth kaesez; nuthing in dhe sound ov dhe wurdz *literal* and *litter* indikaets dhat in dhe sekond kaes a singgl *t* duz not sufies to represent dhe sound ov *t*.

It iz kleeer dhat in Inglish dhe soundz duu not, az a ruul, aford trustwurdhy giedans to dhe speling. Dhaer ar, it iz truu, kwiet a number ov wurdz liek *sit*, *bed*, *lot*, in which dhe speling iz satisfaktory from dhis point ov vue; but dhe graet majorrity ov komon wurdz ar not spelt akording to eny eezily understood sistem, or, indeed, akording to eny sistem whotever.

HOU OUR SPELING BEKAEM WHOT IT IZ

Dhis woz not aulwaez dhe kaes. Long agoe, when Inglish seest to be oenly a spoeken langgweij and kaem aulsoe to be riten, dhe speling represented dhe soundz in a faerly konsistent wae. Dhe *k* dhat peepl roet in *knave*, dhe *gh* in *night*, dhe *w* in *write*, wer aul pronounst; soe woz dhe *e* at dhe end ov *name*. In dhoez daez peepl had litl trubl in lurning to spel. Aafter a tiem, houeever, dhe speling noe longger represented dhe pronunsiyaeshon in such a simpl and straetforward wae; and for dhis dhaer wer several reezonz.

Dhe pronunsiyaeshon kept on chaenjing. It iz aulwaez chaenjing, dhoe not aulwaez at dhe saem raet. When aul dhe children ov a kuntry goe to skuul and ar taut reeding and rieting in dhe saem wae, dhaer speech iz les liabl to chaenj, espeshaly if dhe speling shoez dhem in an unmistaekabl wae whot dhe soundz ar. In biegon daez when dhe skuulz wer fue and dhe mudher tung woz neglekted, dhaer woz nuthing to prevent dhe pronunsiyaeshon from chaenjing a graet deel, far mor dhan dhe speech ov dhe eduekaeted duz at prezent. But dhe speling did not keep paes widh dhe pronunsiyaeshon; peepl went on rieting surten leterz eeven dhoe dhe soundz dhat dhae wuns represented had chaenjd or had disapeerd.

For a tiem Inglish woz riten bie meny huu kaem from Normandy and bie dhaer desendants. Dhae wer akustomd to rieting French, and when dhae roet Inglish dhae ofen represented soundz in dhe

saem was az in French. Dhe wurd *house* uest to be pronounst az we shood pronouns it if it wer riten hoos; in French dhis vouel-sound iz riten *ou* (az in dhe French wurd *tout*); and dhe speling *ou* dhus kaem to be introduet in dhe wurd *house*, taeking dhe plaes ov dhe oelder *u*.

When books wer furst printed in Ingrand dhe kompozitorz ofen spelt dhe saem wurd in diferent waez; dhaer wer noe fikst ruulz. Sum had lurnt dhaer traed in Holand; and memoriz ov Duch speling serviev in such wurdz az *ghost*, which shood hav no *h* in English; *h* okurd in dhe Duch wurd dhat had dhe saem meening.

Befor long dhe speling bekaem mor or les fikst. Oenly a fue sliet chaenjez hav been maed in dhe laast sentueriz; we noe longger riet musick, and we hav given up *honor* in faevor ov *honour* (on dhe advies ov Dr. Johnson). Dheez chaenjez in dhe speling, houeever, ar insignifikant if we kompaer dhem widh dhe chaenjez dhat hav taeken plaes in dhe spoeken langgweij. Dhe breech between dhe soundz and dhaer sienz haz bekum wieder and wieder, until - az we hav seen - dhe soundz hav seest to be a gied to us in speling.

DHE IDEA DHAT DHE SPELING SHOOD SHOE DHE DERIVAESHON

Dhaer iz, houeever, anudher wae in which our spelng woz renderd diferent from dhe spoeken langgweij.

In dhe Midl Aejez Latin woz held in hie onor, and dhe mudher tung woz treeted widh kontempt. When dheskolarz ov dhoez daez did kondesend to pae sum atenshun to English, dhae had dhe feeling dhat it woz a very infeeryor langgweij to Latin, which woz uezd for aul hier purposez, for relijus wurship and study, for eduekaeshon, and soe on. Dhae kood not help noetising dhat sum English wurdz wer konekted widh Latin wurdz; but dhae had undergon a chaenj. Eny chaenj from dhe orijinal Latin form woz, in dhaer ies, manifestly a chaenj for dhe wurs. Soe dhae set about restoring whot dhae kood. Dhe Latin wurdz from which dhe French wurdz ar derievd dhat gaev us *debt* and *doubt* kontaend a *b*, soe dhe *b* woz riten -auldhoer noe wun pronounst it. Dhe word *perfect* had lost its *c* (Chaucer spelt it *parfit*); dhae poot dhe *c* bak, and aafter a tiem peepl aktuealy pronounst it.

In maeking dheez chaenjez it iz kleeer dhat dhe truu purpos ov speling - to reprezent dhe soundz and nuthing els - woz ignord. Dhe riten form ov dhe wurd woz nou maed a meenz ov indikaeting dhe derivaeshon, and it woz braut kloeser to dhe speling ov dhe wurd from which it had developt.

Nou dhe skolarz ov dhe Midl Aejez nue very litl ov historrikal gramar, and konsekwently dhaer aktivitiy widh regard to dhe speling woz ofen kwiet misdirekted. Dhae rongly thaut dhat dhe wurd *rime* woz derievd from dhe wurd which haz given us *rhythm*, and chaenjd it to *rhyme*. It woz imajind dhat *soveran* woz konekted widh *reign*, and soe it woz ehaenjd to *sovereign*.

Nouadaez dhe study ov historrikal gramar okuepiez dhe seeryus atenshon ov meny lurned skolarz; and dhae noe much dhat woz unnoen or unregarded in dhe Midl Aejez. Dhae noe dhat if we wonted to maek wurdz shoe dhaer derivaeshon bie restoring aul leterz dhat hav disapeerd we shood hav a very difikult taask; dhe wurdz wood bekum much longger dhan dhae ar. It wood, indeed, be imposibl to tel whaer we shood stop. Sum wurdz, for instans, hav kum into English from French; dhe French wurd mae goe bak to a Latin wurd, which in turn mae hav kum from a Greek wurd. [2] Hou ar we to indikaet aul dhis in dhe speling? Ar we to maek it rezembl dhe French wurd, or dhe Latin wurd, or dhe Greek wurd? Or shal we goe beyond Greek? Dhe Greek wurd itself duz not giv us dhe oeldest form; skolarz sujest a stil oelder form from which dhae konjektuer dhe Greek wurd woz derievd.

A langgweij mae be regarded from tuu points ov vue: az a meenz ov komuenikaeting thaut and az a subjekt ov study; just az U kan uez a hors for rieding and drauing veiklz, or study it az a zoolojist duz. Dhe medyeeval skolarz huu burdend us widh such spelingz az *debt* and *sovereign* wer skolarz and not praktikal men. Dhae thaut dhae wer impruuing dhe langgweij bie maeking it mor valueabl from dhe filolojikol point ov vue; dhae did not realiz dhat dhae wer komplikaeting dhe speling and dhus rendering dhe riten langgweij a les simpl and satisfakory meenz ov komuenikaeting thaut.

Furdhermor, moest ov dhe misspelingz aford noe indikaeshon ov dhe paast history ov dhe langgweij, eksept to dhe lurned speshalist; and eeveen if dhae did giv such informaeshon to an apreeshyabl number ov peepl, noe wun wonts to noe or remember presiesly whot muslz a hors iz uezing evry tiem he riedz or drievz it.

[2] Dhus our wurd *blame*, from French *blâme* ultimety goez bak to dhe Greek wurd dhat haz aulsoe given us *blasphemy*.

HABIT HAZ BLENDED US TO DHE DEFEKTS OV OUR SPELING

We hav nou seen whie dhe speling haz graduealy seest to be a simpl reprezentaeshon ov dhe living, spoeken langgweij. We kanot help realizing dhat it kontaeenz suepurfluüs leterz dhat noebody pronounsez, and meny waez ov representing dhe saem soundz. Yet we kontinue to uez dhis speling and maek our children lurn it, at graet ekspens ov tiem and efort.

Dhe fakt iz dhat moest ov us hav forgotten dhe tiem and efort it kost us when we wer children. When we kum to think about dhe urlly yeez ov our skuul lief, moest ov us hav oenly haezy memoriz, and very fue ov us ar aabl to kritisiez dhe methodz dhat wer emloid bie our teecherz. We lurnt to spel, sumhou, and we went on speling and reeding wurdz in dhe saem speling yeer aafter yeer. Dhe present form ov wurdz haz bekum familjar to us - fue thingz, indeed, kood be mor familjar dhan dhe form ov dhe komon wurdz in our langgweij. Sum ov dhem we reed and riet hundredz, perhaps thouzandz, ov tiemz evry dae.

Habit plaez a graet part in our lievz. Dhe butonz on dhe bak ov our dres-koets, wuns uezd for butoning bak dhe fool skurt, noe longger surv eny uesfool purpos; but we ar kontent to keep dhem. Dhae wood be eekwaly uesles at dhe end ov dhe koettael, but if we sau eniwun widh butonz in dhis pozishon, it wood shok us ekstremly. We waer whiet tiez widh eeving dres; dhae ar ov noe ues, but if at a party we met a frend without a tie, we shood aulmoest hezitael to point it out, and if we did, he wood be very unkumfortabl. Our ie haz bekum akustomd to seing eech wurd aulwaez spelt in its oen pekuelyar wae. It iz akustomd to *bed* and *dead*, to *root* and *fruit*, to *write* and *right*, and a thousand udher inkonsistensiz. It noe longger seez dhe grotesk apeerans ov dheez wurdz.

Probably U rezent dhe ues ov dhe word "grotesk." U wood prefur to kaul it "interesting" or "piktueresk."

Just trie to imajin dhat U had been diferently akustomd: dhat U had lurnt to spel dhe langgweij bie sum sistem dhat realy represented dhe soundz. Imajin dhat U had groen akustomd to reguelarrity and simplisity ov speling. Whot wood U hav sed to dhe man huu propoezd to spel *tough* and *stuff*, *after* and *laughter*, *plough* and *cow* az we aktuealy spel dhem? Hou wood U hav reseevd dhe sujestyon dhat *det* and *dout* shood be riten widh *b* bekauz dhe Latin wurdz from which dhe French wurdz ar derievd which gaev us dhe English wurdz kontaeend a *b* - tuu thousand yeez agoe? Supoez U had been akustomd to riet *tho*, wood U not hav thaut dhe man mad huu propoezd to ad

ugh to it? Supoez U had been akustomd to riet *nee*, *nit* and *nau*, hou grotesk wood U hav deemd dhe iedea ov preefiksing a *k* to dhe furst and sekond, and a *g* to dhe thurd! Supoez U had been akustomd to riet *wae* and *kaut*, wood U not hav thaut dhe spelingz *weigh* and *caught* az luedikrus az dhae ar sensles? U wood hav sed: "Dhis man iz triing to spoil dhe langgwej, to disturb whot we hav groen akustomd to. We liek to spel dhe wurdz az we pronouns dhem; we liek dhaer riten and printed form. Whot wood be dhe gaen if we adopted dheez chaenjez?"

WHOT SHOOD WE GAEN FROM A SIMPLIFIED SPELING?

But U hav not been akustomd to a reguelar, simpl speling. U hav lurnt dhe speling ov wurdz, not ov soundz, and bie dint ov konstant praktis U ar aebl widhout efort to reeprodues dhe konvenshonal speling. And dhe propoezal iz poot to U to chaenj dhat speling, to akwier fresh habits. U ar aaskt to konsider dhe living, spoeken langgwej, and to riet az U speak. Such a chaenj in uer habits meenz sum temporary diskumfort; dhat iz kleeer. Natueraly U aask "Whot wood be dhe gaen if we adopted dheez chaenjez?"

DHE GAEN TO OUR CHILDREN

It must be sed at wuns dhat dhe cheef gaen wood not be uerz; dhe chaenj wood, abuv aul, benefit dhoez huu hav to lurn dhe speling - far les, dhoez huu hav lurnt it. U ar aaskt to konsider dhis kwestyon in its baeringz on dhe children in our skuulz - not oenly nou, but thruu aul dhe sentueriz to kum - and in its baeringz on British subjekts and forrenerz huu hav to lurn our langgwej.

Abuv aul thingz, konsider our children, and espeshaly dhe children huu atend dhe elementary skuulz. Goe into dheez skuulz, and konvins uerself ov dhe vaast amount ov tiem and enerjy spent bie dhe teecherz and dhe lurnerz aliek in memoriezing dhe speling ov wurdz. It haz been shoen abuv dhat dhe soundz duu not gied dhe chield to dhe korekt speling; dhe speling ov hundredz upon hundredz ov wurdz haz to be lurnt. It iz not tuu much to sae dhat at leest wun yeer ov dhe chield'z skuul lief iz taeken up bie dhis memoriezing. Nou supoez dhat, insted ov lurning dhe speling ov individueal wurdz, dhe chield had oenly to lurn hou to distinggwish dhe soundz ov dhe langgwej and to produes dhem korekty; dhat we dhen gaev him dhe sien or sienz korresponding to eech sound, and toeld him to spel az he pronounst. Dhe skeem heer presented kan be lurnt bie a groen-up purson in les dhan haaf an our; let us sae dhat a chield wood taek a munth. Duz not dhat represent a noetabl saeving? Dhe skuul lief ov dheez children iz deplorably short; ar we justified in kontinueing to waest dhaer tiem az we duu at prezent?

Dhaer iz yet anudher gaen for dhe chield. At prezent he iz raerly taut to distinggwish dhe soundz; but if we teech a speling dhat dependz upon dhe soundz, we kanot neglekt dhem. Whot duz dhis meen? It meenz dhat teecherz and lurnerz wil bekum mor obzurvant ov dhe spoeken langgwej: dhat dhae wil pae mor atenshon to kleeer speech and aul dhat dhis impliez - naemly, good breeding, kaerfool artikuelaeshon, and ekspresiv intonaeshon. When we lisen to a man or wooman huu speeks kleeerly we ar pleezd; we kanot help feeling dhat it iz tuu unkomon an akomplishment. Let dhe speling be kloesly konekted widh dhe soundz, and dhe kultivaeshon ov dhe speaking vois iz bound to foloe.

DHE GAEN TO AUL LURNERZ OV INGLISH

Inglish iz in meny respekts an eezy langgwej. Its gramar iz remarkably simpl. Its oenly graet weeknes liez in its speling. Nuthing els standz in dhe was ov its being dhe langgwej ov internashonal interkors. Simplifie dhe speling, and U maek it eezyer for dhe French Kanaedyan, for our Afrikaans-speaking feloe subjekts in South Afrika, for dhe inhabitants ov Indya, Burma and Malaa, and dhe naetiv peeplz ov Afrika, to lurn dhe langgwej ov dhe Empier. Simplifie dhe speling, and U inkrees dhe number of forrenerz aebl to reed and to apreeshyaet our langgwej. And whot gaen duz dhat bring us? It meenz dhat dhe wurdz riten in our langgwej, ekspresing our thauts and aemz, wil be mar wiedy red and beter understood; it meenz ever-inkreasing influens for our jurnalists, novelists, and dramatists, for our men ov lurning and our men ov praktikal jeenyus.

DHE GAEN IN LURNING FORREN LANGGWEJEZ

It iz, houeever, not oenly dhe forrener lurning Inglish huu wood fiend hiz taask lieter; dhe Inglishman Turning a forren langgwej wood aulsoe be benefited. Wun ov dhe graet difikultiz dhat besets our paath when we lurn a forren langgwej iz dhe pronunnyaeshon. Nou ov laet yeez meny hav been wurking hard to see hou dhe Inglish chield kan best be taut dhe pronunnyaeshon ov a forren langgwej; and dhae hav kum to dhe konkluzhon dhat dhe chield must noe sumthing about dhe soundz ov Inglish befor he kan be taut dhe soundz ov French or eny under forren langgwej in dhe best wae. Dhis iz not meer spekuelaeshon; praktikal ekspeeryens in meny skuulz haz led to rezults which wood hav been regarded az aultogedher unataenabl thurty yeez agoe. Dhe modern langgwej teecher nou haz to spend much tiem in teeching hiz pueplz about Inglish soundz. If our children aul lurnt dhis when dhae wer furst taut to reed and riet, dhae wood fiend it far eezyer dhan at prezent to lurn dhe pronunnyaeshon ov forren langgwejez.

OUR PREZENT NEGLEKT OV DHE SPOEKEN LANGGWE J

It iz straenj hou dhe neglekt ov dhe spoeken langgwej haz renderd meny kwiet ignorant ov dhe soundz dhat dhae uter soe meny tiemz evry dae. Peepl ekspres serpriez when dhae realiez dhat dhe sound at dhe end ov *dogs* iz not *s* but *z*; dhat dhe sound at dhe begining ov *thin* iz not dhe saem az dhat in *then*; dhat dhe furst sound ov *jam* iz a kiend ov *d*; dhat dhe komonest pronunnyaeshon ov dhe vouel in *was*, *had* iz not dhe saem az dhat ov *what* and *hat*. It haz not struk dhem dhat dhae duu not pronouns dhe *p* in *cupboard*, dhe *d* in *handkerchief*, dhe *t* in *castle*; and dhat dhe endingz ov *table* and *label*, *constant* and *persistent*, *stationary* and *stationery* ar dhe saem in sound.

Perhaps noe udher naeshon ov dhoez in dhe furst rank iz soe ignorant ov dhe soundz ov dhe spoeken langgwej, and at dhe saem tiem soe respektfool towordz a speling dhat iz fool ov redundant leterz and inkonsistensiz.

Evry man huu haz maed a speshal study ov dhe Inglish langgwej wil tel U dhat it iz a thurroly bad speling. Amung dhe pioneez ov speling reform mae be menshond Prof. Skeat, Dr. Furnivall, Sur James Murray, and meny udher faemus Inglish skolarz.

WOOD SIMPLIFIED SPELLING OBSKUER DHE HISTORY OV WURDZ?

It haz probably okurd to U dhat if dhe speling shood be simplified, dhe history ov wurdz wood be obskuerd. U hav been thinking about dhe posibl objekshonz to dhe propoezd chaenje, and dhis haz struk U at wuns. Iz uer apprehenshon justified?

U sae dhat U ar interested in traesing derivaeshonz, dhat wurdz in dhaer present form tel U dhaer story. Hou much dhae tel U dependz on hou much U noe ov udher langgwejez - French, Jurman, Latin or Greek.

But whot dun dhe elementary skuul children noe ov dheez langgwejez? Kleerly, in dhaer kaes, dhis arguement agaenst chaenj wood hav noe waet.

Hou meny ov dhoez huu lurn Inglish noe mor dhan wun forren langgwej at aul wel?

Let us asuem dhat U noe French, Jurman, Latin and Greek, and dhat U hav a sufishent nolej ov dheez langgwejez to be aebl to konekt Inglish wurdz widh aul kindred wurdz in dheez langgwejez. Look at eny pasej in Nue Speling; U wil konfes dhat dhe chaenjez maed hav raerly renderd dhe konekshon obskuer. Indeed, in sum kaesez dhe konekshon bekumz mor kleer when dhe speling ov dhe wurd haz been simplified: *sent* iz kloeser to Latin *sentio* dhan *scent*, and *brudhey* iz kloeser to dhe Jurman *Bruder* dhan *brother*.

Even graanting dhat dhe simplified speling duz sumtiemz obskuer dhe derivaeshon, U must konfes dhat uer interest in dhe history ov wurdz iz wun thing, and uer ordinary ues ov dhe spoeken, riten or printed wurd anudher. Whiel U ar tauking, or reeding a nuesaepaper, or rieting a leter, U ar not at dhe saem tiem thinking about dhe history ov dhe wurdz U uez. U mae okaezhonaly let uer thauts dwel on dhis aspekt ov langgwej, but dhen U look at wurdz from kwiet a diferent point ov vue. Wood U stand in dhe wae ov sekuering a graet gaen for dhe children ov kuming jeneraeshonz bekauz ov such konsideraeshonz az dhis?

Remember, tuu, dhat eeven when a simplified speling iz in jeneral ues, dhe present speling, dhe "Oeld Speling," az it wil dhen be kauld, wil stil be familjar to evribody; for dhe enormus number ov books nou in egzistens wil not hav been swept away. Evribody widh eny klaem to eduekaeshon wil be aebl to reed "Oeld Speling." It wil ashuuredly not komaand admiraeshon or respekt; but peepl wil konsent to reed it, bekauz ov dhe books printed in it. Noe wun wil dreem ov rieting it, bekauz ov dhe laebor involvd in lurning dhe bad "Oeld Speling." Dhaer wil be stuedents ov dhe langgwej dhen az nou; let us hoep dhaer wil be far mor. To dhem dhe "Oeld Speling" wil okaezhonaly pruuu uesfool, but not az ofen az miet nou be thaut. To dhe stuedent ov langgwej a speling dhat deevyaets soe far from dhe pronunnyaeshon afordz noe very satisfaktory aed in hiz resurchez. Dhe speling ov an urlyer aej pruuuz to him dhat *knight* and *knave* had a sounded *k*; our speling widh *k* givz noe kluu to dhe present pronunnyaeshon ov dheez wurdz.

It iz noe egzajeraeshon to sae dhat for wun purson huu ever thinks ov dhe derivaeshon ov wurdz dhaer ar a thouzand huu sufer from our bad speling; and dhat wun in a thouzand duz not need dhe misspelingz to remiend him ov dhe derivaeshon. "Dhe skolar duz not need dheez indikaeshonz to help him to dhe pedigree ov dhe wurdz widh which he deelz, and dhe ignorant iz not helpt bie dhem; dhe wun noez widhout, dhe udher duz not noe widh dhem, soe dhat in iedher kaes dhae ar profitabl for nuthing." Or, az Sainte-Beuve neetly poots it: "Pour une lettre de plus ou de moins, les ignorants ne sauront pas mieux reconnaître l'origine du mot, et les hommes instruits la reconnaîtront toujours."

WOOD KONFUEZHON ARIEZ FROM WURDZ HAVING DHE SAEM SPELING DHAT AR NOU SPELT DIFERENTLY?

Perhaps dhe wurdz *knight* and *knave* sujest anudher difikulty to U; if dhe *k* iz noe longger riten, hou ar we to distingwish dheez wurdz from *night* and *nave*? Dhe wurdz *write*, *right*, and *rite*, dhe wurdz *road*, *rowed*, and *rode* sound aliek; wil dhaer not be konfuezhon if dhe speling iz dhe saem?

Hou wood U aanser dhe kwestyon: *bear* (dhe animal) and *bear* (vurb) hav dhe saem sound and dhe saem speling; hav U ever konfuezd dhem? Whie not? Bekauz dhe rest ov dhe sentens maeks dhe meening klear. Dhe saem iz truu ov *knight* and *night* and aul dhe udher wurdz dhat sound aliek but difer in meening. When U tauk about a *knight*, U duu not feel it nesesity to pronouns dhe *k* to shoe dhat U meen *knight* and not *night*; and it iz eekwaly unnesesity to riet dhe *k* for dhis purpos. Dhe rest ov dhe sentens leevz noe dout az to dhe meening. In a very fue kaesez ambiguitiz miet ariez; hou raer dhae ar U wil realiz if U trie to konstrukt such a sentens.

Sumtiemz simplified speling aktuealy maeks dhe meening klearer. If I riet dhe wurdz: *I read it*, U duu not noe whedher I meen *read* for dhe present or dhe paast; in Nue Speling dhe paast wood be *red*, in akordans widh dhe pronunsaeshon. A "**row** ov *houzez*" wood noe longger be spelt in dhe saem was az "*maeking a row*." Dhe noun *tear* wood not hav dhe saem speling az dhe vurb *tear*.

OUR ATITUED TOWORDZ REFORM

U hav nou kum to understand dhat dhe simplifikaeshon ov dhe speling iz a mater wurdhy ov uer urnest atenshon. U noe wel dhat it iz eezy to maek fun ov atempts at speling reform. Dhe naroe-miended man, hiedbound bie prejoodis, rezents eny sujestyon dhat whot ii familjar to him miet be chaenj d widh advaantej; he licks to goe on duing in hiz unthinking wae whot he haz aulwaez dun. He objekts to chaenj bekauz chaenj disturbz hiz kumfort, and bekauz he rekoilz from dhe mental efort rekwierd bie a seeryus konsideraeshon ov dhe chaenjez propoezd. He triez to thwort aul atempts at impruuving dhe speling, bie pointing to dhis wurd or dhat in its chaenj d form, and apeeling to dhe prejoodisez ov udherz; perhaps he eeven travestiz dhe eforts ov reformerz bie sujesting imajinary and obvyusly absurd spelingz az liekly to meet widh dhaer apruual.

U, on dhe udher hand, realiz dhat, if a real simplifikaeshon kood be efekted, its adopshon wood hav very important and far-reeching rezults; and U wood liek to noe hou we kan ariev at such a simplified speling and hou we kan sekuer its adopshon.

DHE PROBLEM OV SPELING REFORM

If we dezier to impruuv dhe speling, we kan set about it in several waez; but dhe j eneral prinsipl must be to bring it into kloeser agreement widh dhe spoeken langgwej.

At furst siet it wood seem to be dhe eezyest method to asertaen hou meny soundz we hav, and to asien a leter to eech. We very suun, however, meet widh difikultiz in dhe atempt to duu dhis. We rekogniez dhat dhaer ar mor soundz in English speech dhan dhaer ar leterz in our alfabet; soe dhat we shood rekwier nue leterz or, at leest, "diakritiks" (dhat iz, aksents, dots, ets.) oeever or under dhe egzisting leterz. Adishonz to dhe alfabet ar aukward, bekauz dhae meen fresh tiep in our printing establishments, dhe ree-modeling ov tieprieterz, monotiep masheenz, ets., and chaenjez in dhe Mors alfabet (uezd in signaling, telegraafing, ets.).

Diakritiks ar not a good devies. Such diakritiks az we nou pozes (dhe dot on *i*, dhe kros lien ov *t*) ar trublum; but eny konsiderabl number ov diakritiks wood pruuv a real nuesans in rieting, for dhe adishon ov a dot or aksent interfeerz widh dhe floe ov dhe pen. Dhe prezens ov diakritiks iz aulsoe a disadvaantej in reeding. We reed wurdz az hoelz, and whot helps us to rekogniez wurdz iz partikuelarly dhe top outlien. Dhe prezens ov taul leterz maeks dhis distinktiv; but dhe adishon ov diakritiks blurz dhe outlien. Dhe printer, tuu, duz not liek diakritiks ; dhe litl adishonal marks ar very liabl to be broeken of.

Meny kiendz ov fonetik speling hav been deviezd. Sum ar uezd in dikshonariz to indikaet dhe pronunsaeshon ov wurdz; udherz hav been uezd partikuelarly for dhe purpos ov teeching forrenerz dhe soundz ov English. If U look at eny ov dheez, U wil fiend dhat dhae maek ekstensiv ues iedher ov diakritiks or ov nue leterz or ov invurted leterz; and dhat to riet English in dhis wae wood chaenj dhe apeerans ov dhe langgwej very much and maek it much mor difikult for dhoez huu hav akwierd dhe nue speling to reed books printed in dhe present speling.

Anudher and mor promising wae ov solving dhe problem iz to egzamin dhe kurrent speling; to konsider in whot waez eech sound iz spelt at present; and dhen to chuuz dhat speling which apeerz to be, dhe moest komon. Dhis wil giv us a speling baest on present uezej, kontaening oenly familjar leterz and rekwiering noe diakritiks beyond dhoez at present in ues. Sumtiemz, it iz truu, we mae fiend dhat tuu or three waez ov speling a sound ar eekwaly komon; dhen we mae chuuz dhat speling which iz moest konveenient for udher reezonz. Sumtiemz, tuu, we mae fiend it nesenary to kombien tuu leterz (to uez a "diegraaf") in a wae which iz nue; for instans, our langgwej haz noe konveenient reprezentaeshon ov dhe sound hurd in *vision*, *measure*, and for dhis we mae uez *zh*, shoing dhe konekshon ov dhe sound widh dhe *sh* ov *mesh*.

DHE REPREZENTAESHON ov DHE KONSONANTS

When we konsider dhe konsonants, we fiend dhat dhaer ar meny which, from our point of vile, ar kwiet satisfactory; dhat iz to sae, eech sound iz uezhuealy represented in wun wae oenly. Dhe sound *b* iz regularly spelt *b*; dhe chield fiendz it eezy to remember dhat when he heerz *bit*, dhe furst leter ov dhe wurd iz a *b*. Dhe saem iz truu ov *p*, *d*, *t*; dhe konsonants ov *bed*, *pet* giv noe trubl. Dhe leterz in dhe foloing wurdz dhat ar in boeld tiep ar aulsoe uezd in a satisfactory was: **met**, **net**, **win**, **fan**, **van**, **set**, **zest**, **hot**, **lot**. Aul dheez leterz we kan adopt in our simplified speling. Dhis duz not meen dhat we kan aulwaez uez dhem when dhae okur in dhe present speling. Dhe sekond *s* ov dhe wurd at present riten *sees* duz not stand for dhe sound *s*; *sees* duz not riem widh *lease*, but widh *freeze*. We shal dhaerfor riet *seez*.

Dhe konsonant ov *of* iz not *f* but *v*; and we shal dhaerfor riet *ov*. Dhe *w* in *sword*, *whole*, *write* duz not represent eny sound at aul; soe it wil be omited. In *uphill* dhe leterz *p* and *h* hav dhaer ordinary valuez; but in *phantom* dhe *ph* represents *f*. Dhe sound iz noe gied to dhe present speling. *F a n* spelz *fan*; in a reezonabl speling *f a n t o m* spelz dhe wurd nou rites widh *ph*. (If dhoez him think *ph* aut to remaen bekauz it shoiez dhe derivaeshon from dhe Greek wer konsistent, dhae wood riet *phrenzy*, *phancy*, not *frenzy*, *fancy*, sins dheez wurdz aulsoe ar ov Greek orrijin.) In *nephew*, on dhe udher hand, moest ov us pronouns dhe *ph* az *v*, and shood dhaerfor riet *v* - which aut to pleez our frendz dhe derivaeshonists, for dhis bringz it kloeser to dhe French *neveu* from which it kumz.

Sum ov dhe konsonants ar mor trublsum. Wurst ov aul ar dhe leterz *c*, *k*, *qu*, *x*. Konsider dhaer present usez -

cat, city, ocean, science, back.

cook, back, knave.

quaint, quay.

extra, examine, anxious, xylophone.

Hou kan dhe lurner tel from dhe soundz dhat he must uez *c* in *cat* and *k* in *kitten*? Dhat in *cook* dhe saem sound iz furst to be riten *c* and dhen *k*? Dhat in *taken* he must riet *k*, but *c* in *bacon*?

Hou iz he to tel from dhe soundz dhat dhaer iz an *s* in *sit*, but *c* in *city*? *s* in *sealing*, but *c* in *ceiling*?

Whie shood he riet *ck* when *c* or *k* wood sufies? Whie *cocks*, but *box*? Whie *eggs*, but *examine*?

He heerz dhe saem soundz in *kill* and *quilt*, eksept dhat in dhe sekond ov dheez dhe *k* iz foloed bie a *w*; whie shood he not riet *kw*? Dhe soundz ov *key* and *quay* ar dhe saem; hou iz he to tel dhat dhae difer in speling?

Dhe aanser to aul dheez kwestyonz iz dhat dhe lurner haz to lurn bie hart dhe speling ov individueal wurdz. It wood ashuuredly be much simpler to sae: when U heer dhe sound riten *k* in *king*, riet *k* aulwaez; when U heer dhe sound riten *s* in *sit*, riet *s* aulwaez. To dhoez huu ar akustomd to dhe present speling, *kat* for *cat* and *kook* for *cook* noe dout look od; but dhat iz truu ov eny chaenj in dhe speling.

Dhe leterz *ng* in *sing* represent wun sound, not tuu; in *anger* dhae represent tuu soundz, soe dhat dhe wurd iz mor aproeprietly riten *angger*. Dhe saem naezal sound iz riten *n* in *anchor*. Whiel it wood be mor konsistent to riet *angkor* or *angker* (dhe *h* wood ov kors disapeer), it seemz unnesesary to insurt dhe *g* when a *k* foloetz. Dhe speling *ankor* mae giv a litl trubl to dhe forrener, huu miet be tempted to pronouns it *an-kor*, but to dhe chield huu noez dhe wurd bie eer befor he ever seez it, dhaer iz noe difikulty. *English* mae be riten *Inglish* or *Ingglish*; boeth pronunsaeshonz ar hurd.

Dhe sound ov *sh* in *shut* iz riten in meny waez; konsider dheez wurdz: *sugar*, *machine*, *notion*, *special*, *ocean*, *tension*, *conscience*, *complexion*, *passion*. Heer we hav ten diferent waez ov speling dhe saem sound. Hou iz dhe lurner to tel dhat *s* iz to be riten in *sugar*? Dhat *ocean* and *notion*, *complexion* and *direction*, *tension* and *attention* ar to be spelt az we aktuealy spel dhem? Iz it not a graet simplifikaeshon to sae: when U heer dhe sound *sh*, riet *sh*?

For dhe relaeted sound dhat iz riten *s* in *measure*, *vision* and *z* in *azure*, *seizure* dhe leterz *zh* ar sujested az dhe moest suetabl notaeshon.

Dhe soundz riten *ch* in *chat* and *j* in *jet* ar realy very much liek *tsh* and *dzh*; but dhe present spelingz *ch* and *j* ar mor konveenyent. At present we riet *ch* in *which* and *tch* in *witch*; it iz simpler to sae: riet *ch* aulwaez when U heer it. Dhe sound ov *j* apeerz in *jet*, but aulsoe in *gem*, *wager*, *badger*, *badge*, *legion*, *spinach*. Dhe lurner kanot tel which ov dheez spelingz iz korekt in eny partikuelar wurd; he haz to lurn dhe speling ov eech wurd separetly. It wood be far, simpler to giv dhe ruul: riet dhe leter *j* when U heer dhe sound ov *j*. Az for dhe leter *g*, it iz kleeerly lojikal to rezurv it eksklusivly for dhe hard sound it haz in such wurdz az *given*, *get*, *got*, *good*.

In "Oeld Speling" *th* standz for tuu soundz; dhe *th* in *thing* iz not dhe saem az dhe *th* in *this*. It iz lojikal to distinggwish dhem bie rieting *dh* in dhe sekond kaes. Dhis iz a similar devies to dhe ues ov *zh* sujested abuv.

We hav nou delt widh dhe soundz shoen in boeld tiep in dhe foloing wurdz

pin bin	tin din	king get
met	net	sing (N.B. think)
win	fan van	thing dhis
set zest	shut vizhon	chat jet
hot lot		

Dhe oenly konsonants dhat remaen to be konsiderd ar *y*, *r* and *wh*.

In dhe prezent speling *y* reprezents a konsonant in *yet*, and it mae wel be retaend widh dhis value. It aulsoe reprezents vouelz; dhe *y* in *physics*, *city* haz dhe saem value az *i* in *visit*, *citizen*, and dhe *y* in *type*, *why* haz dhe saem value az *i* in *find*. We shal meet widh dheez soundz agaen when we kum to dhe vouelz.

Dhe leter *r* haz vaeryus pronunsaeshonz in diferent parts ov dhe English-speaking wurld, and it wil be wel to keep it whaer it okurz in dhe prezent speling, eeven in wurdz whaer sum hav seest to pronouns it. Aafter strest short *a*, *o*, *u* it iz konveenient to dubl dhe *r*, for instans in *marry*, *sorry*, *hurry*, az an indikaeshon ov shortnes ov dhe vouel; wurdz widh long vouelz liek dhoez nou spelt *starry*, *story*, *stirring* wood be riten widh wun *r* (*stary*, *story*, *sturing*).

Dhe leterz *wh* ar aulsoe vaeryusly pronounst. In sum parts dhaer iz noe diferens in sound between *wh* and *w*; *which* iz pronounst liek *witch*, *where* liek *wear*, *while* liek *wile*. Az, houeever, soe meny speekerz ov English duu maek a distinkshon, it wil be wel to keep *wh* whaer it okurz in dhe prezent speling (eksept in *who*, *whom*, *whose*, *whole*, whaer it haz dhe sound ov *h*).

From whot haz gon befor, U wil see dhat dhe konsonants on dhe hoel prezent litl difikulty; and dhat iz a very important fakt. In our langgwej dhae ar mor nuemerus dhan dhe vouelz; and it iz not difikult to reed a sentens in which oenly dhe konsonants hav been riten and dhe vouelz hav been left out. [3] Dhe konsonants ar a much mor staebel element in dhe langgwej dhan dhe vouelz.

[3] Az an egzaampl, taek dhe sentens

****e **ai* **a*** a* ***ee o**o** o* *ue**ay* a** **u***ay***

and kompaer it widh

Th* trn st*rts *t thr** *cl*ck *n T**sd**s *nd Th*rsd**s.**

DUBL KONSONANTS AND SIELENT KONSONANTS

Befor paasing to dhe vouelz, we must pae a litl atenshon to dhe dubl konsonants and to dhe sieleent konsonants.

When we sae dhe wurd *coattail* we pronouns dhe *t* at dhe end ov *coat* and dhe *t* at dhe begining ov *tail*. But dhe kaes iz diferent in *written*; we pronouns oenly wun *t* heer. We pronouns boeth *p*'z in *lamppost*, but oenly wun in *happy*. In *bigger* we pronouns wun *g* oenly, just az in *figure*. In *all* we pronouns wun *l*, just az in *awl*. In *muddy* we pronouns wun *d*, just az in *study*. It iz kleeer dhat whaer dhe konsonant iz pronounst oenly wuns, it shoed be riten oenly wens.

It iz konveenyent to maek an eksepschon in dhe kaes ov *r*, and riet it dubl aafter short *a*, *o* and *u*, az in *karry*, *sorry*, *hurry*. See abuv.

Sielent konsonants okur in prezent speling in a faer number ov wurdz, for instans in *light*, *whole*, *gnat*, *knave*, *write*, *lamb*, *autumn*, *science*, *sign*, *half*, *doubt*, *answer*, *yacht*. Whaer a leter reprezents noe sound at aul, it kanot be retaend in a rashonal speling.

SHORT VOUELZ

Dhe short vouelz fortuenetly giv litl trubl. U wil aksept widhout hezitaeshon dhe speling ov dhem az it okurz in *hat*, *best*, *king*, *song*, *good* and *bud*. If dhis ues ov *a*, *e*, *i*, *o*, *oo*, *u* be maed reguelar for dhe short vouelz, sum chaenjez wil ov kors rezult. Dhe sielent *u* wil hav to disapeer from *guest*, and U wil riet *gest* az U riet *best*; U remember dhat we ar giving *g* ueniformly dhe value it haz in *go*, and *gest* wil dhaerfor not be konfuezd widh *jest*. U wil riet *frend* (kp. *lend*), *hed* (kp. *bed*), *whot* (kp. *not*), *under* (kp. *under*), *fled* (kp. *bud*).

It iz found dezierabl to maek wun eksepschon in dhe kaes ov dhe short *i* sound. For reezonz set out in dhe Society'z book *New Spelling*, we rekomend dhat dhe sound be riten widh *y* fienaly (az in *pity*) and befor anudher vouel (az in *pityus*).

LONG VOUELZ AND DIFTHONGZ

Dhe long vouelz and difthongz prezent far mor difikulty, for dhaer prezent speling iz very vaerid. To giv aul dhe diferent waez in which dheez soundz ar at prezent spelt wood taek up a graet deel ov spaes; it wil be sufishent for our prezent purpos to giv a fue egzaamplz, and to indikaet which speling ov dheez so.undz apeerz dhe moest konveenyent. For a mor deetaeld diskushon ov dhe kwestyonz involvd reederz ar refurd to dhe Society'z book *New Spelling*, pp. 42-59.

Let us taek az our furst egzaampl dhe sound ov *o* in *go*, which sum pronouns az a long vouel, udherz az a difthong, udherz agaen az a difthong ov anudher kiend. Dhe foloing wurdz shoe thurteen diferent waez ov rieting dhis *o*:

go, *goes*, *road*, *rowed*, *rode*, *blow*, *mauve*, *bureau*, *yeoman*, *sew*, *brooch*, *soul*, *though*.

Dhae ar, ov kors, not aul eekwaly komon; but eech ov dhe spelingz egzemplified bie *go*, *goes*, *road*, *rode* and *blow* okurz in meny wurdz.

Az a sekond egzaampl we mae taek dhe long sound ov *u* in *truth*. Dhe foloing wurdz shoe ten diferent spelingz ov dhis sound

truth, *true*, *rule*, *fruit*, *rheumatism*, *drew*, *mood*, *through*, *move*, *shoe*.

Our thurd egzaampl shal be dhe sound ov *ie* in *cries*. Dhe foloing wurdz shoe eleven diferent spelingz ov dhis sound

cries, *dial*, *high*, *height*, *file*, *cry*, *type*, *aisle*, *guide*, *buy*, *eye*.

Dheez egzaamplz surv to shoe dhat noewhaer iz simplifikaeshon mor urjently needed dhan in dhe kaes ov dhe long vouelz and difthongz; at dhe saem tiem it iz obvyus dhat dhe number ov

chaenjez wil be dhe graetest. In dhe foloing sujestyonz for a simplified speling ov dheez soundz, dhe atempt haz been maed to produes a sistem dhat iz eezy to lurn and dhat taeks into akount, az far az posibl, whot iz moest komon in dhe prezent speling.

- (i) Riet *aa* in *faadher*, *ar* in *far*.
- (ii) Riet *ae* in *maed*, *aer* in *faer*.
- (iii) Riet *au* in *laud*, *or* in *lord*.

(i) If we uezd dhe singgl *a* we shood get into difikultiz; dhus we ar bound to drop dhe sielent *i* in *calm*, *palm*, ets., but for Sudhern Inglish at eny raet we kanot riet *kam*, *pam*. We hav dhe diegraaf *aa* in dhe prezent speling ov dhe wurd *bazaar*. Auldhoesum maek noe diferens in pronunsaeshon between *faadher* and *fardher*, meny duu; dhe distinkshon must dhaerfor be kept in dhe speling and dhe *r* retaend in dhe later wurd. Sum duu not sae *faast* but *fast* (widh dhe saem vouel az in *fat*); dheez mae liek to riet dhis and similar wurdz widh wun *a* onely.

(ii) Dhe prezent *made* and *maid* hav dhe saem sound, and shood dhaerfor hav dhe saem speling. *Ae* iz a konveenyent reprezentaeshon for dhe vouel in dheez wurdz, being parralel to *ee*, *ie*, *oe*, *ue*. We hav dhe diegraaf *ae* in dhe prezent speling ov dhe wurdz *sundae*, *maelstrom*, *brae*. *Day* wil dhen be riten *dae*, *great* wil bekum *graet*; *there* and *their* wil bekum *dhaer*, *bear* and *bare* wil bekum *baer*. Dhe *e* mae konveenyently be dropt befor anudher vouel, az in *kaos*, *konvadns*.

(iii) *Haul*, *haunt*, *caught*, ets., wil retaen dhaer *au*; but in udher wurdz a chaenj wil be nesenary. Dhus we shal hav *bawl*, *klau*, *braud*, *baut*, *thaut*. *Or* wil remaen in *form*, *sort*, *orb*, and meny udher wurdz, inkluding dhoes liek *port*, *force*, which hav a diferent sound in dhe speech ov meny peepl; but *more*, *roar* wil bekum *mor*, *ror*.

- (iv) Riet *ee* in *feel*, *ear* in *feet*.
- (v) Riet *oe* in *loed*.

(iv) We shal dhen noe longger be trubld bie such difikultiz az *speak* and *speech*, which wil look much mor kloesly relaeted az *speak* and *speech*. *Feet* and *feat* wil hav dhe saem speling, az aulsoe *beet* and *beat*, *meet* and *meat*. (Az woz shoen on pp. 21, 22, dhis kan hardly ever leed to ambiguity.) Dhe singgl leter *e* iz found to be sufishent when a vouel foloez, az in *theory*, *seing*; and it mae aulsoe be riten for short in dhe komon monosilablz *he*, *she*, *we*, *me*, *be*, *dhe*.

(v) Dhe sound ov *o* in *go* haz meny diferent spelingz, az woz shoen on p. 34, and noe wun speling iz at prezent mor komon dhan any udher, unles it be *o*, which we rekwier for dhe short vouel ov *got*; on dhe hoel *oe* seemz to be dhe best chois. Heer agaen, dhe *e* mae be omed befor anudher vouel, az in *going*, *poet*; but dhen we strikty speeking rekwier a diakritik (¨) to shoe dhat dhe *oi*, *oe* ar to be pronounst az separet vouelz, and not az in *koin*, *goez*. [4]

- (vi) Riet *ie* in *mie*, *ier* in *fier*.

Dhe chois ov a simbol for dhis difthong iz not eezy. Dhe moest komon ov dhe prezent spelingz (see p. 34) ar *i* (which iz rekwierd for dhe short vouel), *ie* and *y*. It iz probably best to uez *ie*. Dhe *e* kan be dropt befor anudher vouel, az in *dial*. In *diet* dhe *e* iz pronounst separetly, soe we hav to riet *diët*. Dhe pursonal pronoun, widh its anomalus kapital, mae kontinue to be riten *I*.

- (vii) Riet *uu* in *food*, *uur* in *puur*.
- (viii) Riet *ue* in *nue*, *uer* in *demuer*.

Kwiet dhe moest difikult problem in konekshon widh dhe vouelz iz to deturmin dhe best speling ov dhe soundz riten *ue* in *true* and *due* respektivly. Dhe present speling iz moest konfuezing. For *ue* in *true* dhis woz shoen on p. 34; az for *ue* in *due*, it iz nou spelt in at leest ten diferent waez:

cue, cubic, cube, suit, eulogy, adieu, few, view, beauty, ewe.

It iz prity jeneraly agreed dhat dhe leter *u* shood be asiend to dhe vouel hurd in *fun*. Hou ar we to reprezent dhe long *oo* in *food*, dhe short *oo* in *good*, dhe long "yoo" in *tune* and dhe short "yoo" in *monument*? Moest vaerid solueshonz hav been oferd, amung dhe reprezentaeshonz propoezd being *oo, uu, yuu, yu, yue, ue, eu, ew, w, v*. We think dhe best solueshon to be to uez *uu* for dhe long sound in *fuud*, and *oo* for dhe short sound in *good*; and *ue* for dhe long and dhe short soundz in *tuen, monuement*. Dhe sekond *u* ov *uu* mae be dropt befor anudher vouel, az in *ruin, bluish*; but dhe *e* ov *ue* kanot be dropt.

A propoezal dhat haz been maed to uez *oo* for dhe long az wel az dhe short vouel iz unsatisfactory az it involvz remuuving dhe distinkshon between such paerz ov wurdz az *pull, pool, full, fool, wood, wooed*. [5]

It iz sujested dhat dhe proenoun *you* be treeted liek *I* and riten *U*, and dhat *to* shood retaien its present form (an abreevyaeshon ov *too*).

(ix) Riet of in *koin, oir* in *emploir*.

(x) Riet ou in *kount, our* in *shour*.

Dhaer kan be litl dout about dhe spelingz *oi* and *ou*. It iz truu dhat at dhe end ov wurdz dhe present speling jeneraly haz *oy* and *ow*; but to maek dhis a ruul wood be a uesles komplikaeshon.

(xi) Riet *ur* in *furn, er* in *sister*.

Moest speekerz maek noe distinkshon between *er* in *fern, ir* in *fir, ur* in *fur, or* in *word* and *yr* in *myrtle*. Sum huu maek a distinkshon mae prefur to riet *er* in such wurdz az *fern, earth*. It iz konveenyent, however, to rezurv *er* for unstrest silablz.

It iz sujested dhat a speshal form *wer* be uezd for *were*, on akount ov its tuu pronunsvyaeshonz (*wur* and *waer*).

[4] It haz been sujested dhat dhe familiar tiep *œ* miet be uezd for dhe long sound ov *o*, whaerever it okurz. Dhis wood obvyaet dhe need for dhe diaeresis in wurdz liek *goïng, poët*.

[5] Dhe plan haz, however, been suksesfooly eksperimented widh in Skotland, whaer dhe distinkshon iz ofen not maed.

VOUELZ IN UNSTREST SILABLZ

Dhe kwestyon how far dhe ues ov *er* shood be ekstended iz moest difikult to aanser, for it kompeliz us to faes dhe Noel problem ov dhe vouelz in unstrest silablz. Taek dhe foloing egzaamplz:

able and *label*; *idle* and *idol*; *mettle* and *metal*.

tailor and *trailer*; *alter* and *altar*; *beggar* and *bigger*; *stationery* and *stationary*.

balsam and *venom*; *infamy* and *economy*; *infamous* and *blasphemous*.

ocean and *notion*; *musician* and *position*.

barren and *baron*; *rotten* and *cotton*.

distant and persistent; distance and sentence; tenancy and clemency.

Reed dheez wurdz in a natueral wae; U wil fiend it eezyer to duu dhis if U introduces dhem into sentensez. It iz probabl dhat U wil dhen realiz dhat our speling shoez a variety ov vouel leterz whaer in our ordinary pronunsaeshon oenly wun vouel sound iz hurd. Dhis "obskuer" or "nuetral" vouel, az it iz kauld, iz ov freekwent okurrens in English, az aulsoe in French and Jurman. In a puerly fonetik alfabet it iz uezhuealy represented bie dhe sien ə (an inverted e).

U mae, houeever, hav noetist dhat publik speekerz huu ar very deliberet and presies in dhaer speech duu maek distinkshonz in sum ov dhe kaesez ov which egzaamplz hav been given abuv; and dhaer ar meny huu beleev dhat dhis iz a praktis to be komended and wurdhy ov jeneral imitaeshon and ekstenshon. Dhae maentaen dhat dhis adz to dhe buety ov dhe langgwej, and dhat dhe variety ov dhe vouel leterz, az found in dhe present speling ov dhe unstrest silablz, shood be indikaeted in dhe pronunsaeshon aulsoe; soe dhat, for instans, dhe sekond silabl ov *moment* wood be pronounst liek *meant* (which iz, indeed, dun bie sum) and dhat dhe sekond silabl ov *idol*, *sailor* shood be pronounst liek *doll*, *lore* respektivly. Dhae aulsoe maentaen dhat in meny kaesez it iz dezierbar to retaan dhe present speling ov dhe vouel bekauz ov dhe egzistens ov derievd wurdz in which dhe vouel iz strest and apeerz widh a fool value, e.g. *metal* and *metallic*, *ocean* and *oceanic*, *idol* and *idolatry*, *baron* and *baronial*.

Udherz, houeever, regard such a pronunsaeshon ov dhe unstrest vouelz az an unwarrantabl revieual ov whot haz long disapeerd, or az an introdukshon ov sumthing which haz never egzisted befor. Dhae sae dhat dhe ues ov obskuer vouelz in unstrest silablz, far from being a sien ov deteeryoraeshon, iz a valueabl feetuer ov dhe langgwej sins bie dhis meenz due prominens iz given to dhe moest important silablz; dhat whot haz taeken plaes, for instans, in jurman and udher kindred langgwejez, haz its justifiabl parralel in our oen. In udher langgwejez dhe obskueraeshon ov former strong vouelz shoez itself in dhe speling az wel az in dhe spoeken langgwej; for instans dhe *e* in jurman *Bruder*, *leider*, *Häuser* goez bak to vaeryus vouelz which seest to be diferenshyaeted in dhe speling when dhe "nuetral" vouel had taeken dhaer plaes in dhe spoeken langgwej. Dhae aulsoe point to dhe uezej ov dhe poëts, huu mae shuurly be regarded az not indiferent to dhe buety ov dhe langgwej, but huu duu not hezitaet to uez such riemz az *ever*, *endeavour* (Wordsworth, Byron), *sever*, *endeavour* (Th. Moore), *tender*, *splendour* (Shelley), *motion*, *ocean* (Wordsworth, Coleridge, Shelley), *sentence*, *repentance* (Byron), *heaven*, *Devon* (Tennyson), *languors*, *angers* (Tennyson).

Dhaer iz anudher vouel dhat apeerz komonly in unstrest silablz, a vouel which resemblz dhe *i* ov pit. Dhe foloing egzaamplz shoe dhe present spelingz ov dhis sound:

city and citizen; carry and carrier; captain and satin; roses and posies; volley and folly; purest and purist; postage, vestige and privilege.

Dhe praktikal kwestyon for us iz: Hou ar we to deel widh dhe vouelz in unstrest silablz in our skeem ov simplified speling? It iz imposibl to tel which ov dhe tuu inkompatibl vuez staeted abuv wil win dhe dae; tiem aloen kan desied. In dheez surkumstanses it wil be wiez to retaan for dhe present eny diferensez which mae serviev, not oenly in dhe speling, but in very presies speech. Dhoez huu pefur a speling mor in akordans widh dhaer natueral speech (bie noe meenz dhe saem thing az "kaerles" or "slipshod" speech) shood be at liberty to uez it.

Dhus we propoez to retaan dhe present speling ov dhe unstrest vouelz in *laebel*, *iedol*, *metal*, *taelor*, *traeler*, *distant*, *persistent*, etc., and to replaes dhe turminaeshonz *-ous* and *-our* bie *-us* and *-or*. It iz konveenient to riet dhe unstrest short *i* sound widh *y* fienaly or befor anudher vouel (*karry*,

karryer); in udher situeaeshonz we propoez to riet *i* whaer present spelling haz *i* or *ie* (*vestij*, *poeziz*) and *e* whaer present spelling haz *e*, *a* or *ai* (*roezez*, *privilej*, *poestej*, *kapten*).

DHE NUE SPELING IN BREEF

We hav nou delt widh dhe soundz ov dhe English langgwej and dhaer reprezentaeshon bie meenz ov a simpl and reezonably konsistent spelling, ov which dhis taebel givz a sumary:

CONSONANT SOUNDS

pin	bin	tin	din	king	get
fan	van	set	zest	chat	jet
hot	lot	rot	win	whim	yet
		(N.B. <i>karry</i> , <i>sorry</i> , <i>hurry</i>)			
met	net	sing	(N.B. <i>think</i>)		
shut	vizhon	thing	dhis		

VOWEL SOUNDS

bat	bet	pit	pot	but	good
		pity			
		pityus			
faadher	maed	feel	haul	goez	muun
far	faer	feer	short	loer	puur
stary	kaos	being	story	heroïk	bluish
krie		koin	hue		
fier	kount	emploir	puer		
dial	sour				
		fur	sister		
		sturing			

Realiez dhat when dhe chield haz lurnnt to distinggwish dhe soundz, dhis litl taebel givz him dhe wae in which dhae ar to be spelt. Dhen turn to eny book nou in ues for teeching our spelling and aask uerself which iz dhe mor eekonomikal sistem. If dhe sistem we propoez efekted ekonomy at dhe ekspens ov eduekaeshonal soundnes, U wood rietly giv it noe furdher atenshon. Dhat it iz eduekaeshonal sound haz been shoen abuv; but it wil be wel to giv heer, in a fue wurdz, dhe advaantejez ov dhis sistem ov simplified spelling, or 'Nue Speling' az we kaul it.

ADVAANTEJEZ OV NUE SPELING

It iz eezy to lurn. Trie for uerself. Sae a sentens and dhen riet it in Nue Speling. If U duu fiend difikulty, it iz bekauz U hav not been akustomd to distinggwish dhe soundz U uter, bekauz in chieldhood uer eer-traening woz neglekted.

It kan be taut bie rashonal methodz. Dhe proeses wil be dhis: dhe atenshon ov dhe chield iz draun to dhe soundz he uezez in speeking. Hiz organz ov speech az wel az hiz eerz ar traend. Dhen he lurnz to reprezent dhe soundz bie leterz. He duz not lurn dhe spelling ov individueal wurdz, which kaulz for eksesiv memoriezing. (Dhaer ar udher and far beter waez ov praktising dhe memory.)

Dhe traening ov dhe eer and ov dhe voekal organz, which iz an esenshal part ov lurning dhe simplified spelling, iz ov graet value. It iz uesfool in leeding to kleeerer speech, and formz dhe

baesis ov aul good wurk in elokueshon and singing. It iz dhe best preparaeshon for lurning short-hand. It afordz graet help in maastering dhe pronunsaeshon ov forren langgwejez. Dhaer iz noe dout dhat dhe simplifikaeshon ov speling wood very suun leed to a graet impruuvment in pronunsaeshon. Sluvenlines iz fosterd bie dhe lak ov a kleeer and konstant relaeshon between dhe riten simbol and dhe spoeken sound.

Wun huu haz lurnt Nue Speling wil be aebl to reed books in Oeld Speling widh litl trubl. Meny wurdz ar dhe saem. In deviezing dhe nue speling kaer haz been taeken to maek dhe leest posibl chaenj dhat iz konsistent widh efishensy. Aafter a litl praktis, it wood be kwiet eezy to reed dhe "Oeld Speling"; but noe wun wood be ekspekted to riet it, and it iz dhis which rekwierz soe much efort.

It iz eezy to print. Az it kontaenz noe nue leterz and noe unuezhueal diakritiks, egzisting founts ov tiep wil surv purfektly. Dhaer iz noe need to efekt eny chaenj in tieprietierz, monotiep masheenz, ets. Dhe alfabet uezd in telegrafy and in signaling wil remaen dhe saem.

It maeks English dhe moest survisabl langgwej for interkors widhin dhe Empier and between naeshonz. Noe udher langgwej oferz dhe saem kombinaeshon ov advaantejez az ourz. It haz a very simpl gramar and a very rich vokabuelary; it iz dhe kee to a grand literatuer. Its oenly seeryus draubak iz - dhe speling.

If we agree to maek dhe speling ov English az reezonabl and straetforward az iz dhat ov Spanish or ov Italian, we shal konfur an inestimabl buun on dhe children ov untoeld jeneraeshonz to kum. We shal ad to dhe efishensy ov aul English-speeking peeplz bie efekting an imens impruuvment in elementary eduekaeshon, bie which evry chield, rich or puur, wil be dhe gaener. We shal enshuur dhe kontinued spred ov dhe English langgwej thruout dhe wurd.

HOU U KAN HELP DHE MUUVMENT FOR SPELING REFORM

When U look at dhe naemz ov dhoez huu hav been or ar interesting dhemselvz in dhe muuvment, when U see dhat men liek Profesor Gilbert Murray, Profesor Stanley Jevons, Profesor Daniel Jones, Mr. H. G. Wells, Sur Percy Nunn, Mr. I. J. Pitman, to menshon oenly a fue, ar keen memberz ov dhe Simplified Speling Society, az aulsoe wer dhe laet Mr. William Archer, Sur William Ramsay, Lord Bryce, Sur George Hunter, and Sur Mark Hunter, U mae be inkliend to sae: I mae wel leev dhe wurk to such men. Dhat, houeever, iz not whot dhae wont at aul. Dhae mae be aebl to duu mor dhan U, but dhae kanot dispens widh uer aktiv suport. Liek evry udher graet muuvment, it apeelz to aul eduekaeted men and wimen. We wont uer pursonal interest, we wont uer help in dhe kampaen for simplified speling.

U kan help a graet deel. Think about dhe kwestyonz involvd, tauk about dhem to uer frendz, tack an interest in dhe spoeken langgwej. When U meet widh ignorans and prejoodis, duu uer utmoest to dispel dheez enemiz to aul oepen-miended konsideraeshon ov dhe problem. Dhe arguements dhat U wil hav to aanser ar aulwaez dhe saem.

BREEF AANSERZ TO DHE ARGUMENTS OV OPOENENTS

Nue Speling looks kweer, ugly, ets.

Aanser: Prejoodis, born ov habit. Familyarrity, in dhis kaes, breedz il-plaest admiraeshon. Dhoez braut up on a simplified speling wil be just az devoeted to dhat, and widh beter kauz. [\[6\]](#)

Wurdz ov dhe saem sound nou spelt diferently wood be spelt aliek, which wood leed to konfuezhon.

Aanser: Dhaer iz noe konfuezhon when dhe wurdz ar spoeken; wkie shood dhaer be eny when dhae ar riten? Dhe kontekst maeks dhe meening kleeer. Sum wurdz, nou spelt aliek, wood be diferenshyaeted.

A chaenj ov speling wood obskuer dhe derivaeshon.

Aanser: Graanted, sumtiemz; in udher kaesez it wood maek it kleeerer. In our ordinary ues ov langgwej we ar not at dhe saem tiem studying etimolojy; for dhe stuedent ov etimolojy dhe "Oeld Speling" wil stil be avaelabl for referens.

It iz good for children to wurk hard.

Aanser: Ov kors it iz; and dhaer ar plenty ov subjekts ov graet intrinsik importans at which dhae kan wurk hard. But whaer iz dhe intrinsik importans ov rieting *dhoe az though* and *frend az friend*? To kompel dhem to lurn aul dhe redundansiz and inkonsistensiz ov our speling bekauz ov dhe hard wurk involvd iz az sensibl az to maek dhem riet widh dhaer feet raadher dhan widh dhaer handz bekauz ov dhe harder wurk entaeld in duing soe.

Breef aanserz hav been given heer; but aul dheez objekshonz hav been delt widh on urlyer paejez ov dhis book, eksept dhe laast - which iz realy tuu absurd to kaul for an ekstensiv aanser.

Dheez subjekts ar aulsoe delt widh in graeter deetael in dhe vaeryus udher publikaeshonz anounst on dhe kuver ov dhis book, and partikuelarly in dhe Society'z Pamflets 2, 3 and 4: *I Hav Lurnt to Spel*, *Dhe Etimolojikal Arguement* and *Dhe Eesthetik Arguement*, which we rekomend U to get.

[6] U mae perhaps heer sumwun eksklaem: "Shakespeare'z speling iz good enuf for me." We hapen to hav noe evidens az to Shakespeare'z speling - eksept dhat he woz not partikuelar az to dhe speling ov biz naem; heer iz an egzaampl ov Shakespeare'z printerz' speling:

How fweet the moone-light feepees vpon this banke,
Heere will we fit, and let the founds of muficke
Creepe in our eares, loft ftines and the night
Become the tutches of fweet harmonie.

Or agaen sumwun mae sae: "I shood not liek to see dhe Biebl in Nue Speling." Probably he wood not, at furst; and it iz aulsoe probabl dhat he wood not liek it in dhe speling ov dhe siksteenth sentuery. Aafter aul, it iz dhe meening dhat materz; and dhoez akustomd to reeding dhe Biebl in a simplified speling wood reveer its teeching noe les dhan we duu.

ADOPTION OV SIMPLIFIED SPELING

U mae aulsoe liek to shoe dhat U ar a frend ov proegres bie maeking ues ov Nue Speling in uer leterz or in print. Dhe mor ofen peepl see wurdz spelt in a reezonabl wae, dhe mor kwikly wil dhae get akustomd to dhe ieeda ov chaenj.

Posibly, however, U mae prefur to waet until dhe skeem iz mor wiedly noen befor adopting it in its kompleet form. In dhe meentiem U mae be wiling to adopt surten obvyus simplifikaeshonz which form part ov dhe propoezd skeem, such az

- (1) dropping silent letters (e.g. *dout, definit, sensitiv, rong, freed, hed*),
- (2) using single instead of double letters where no ambiguity would be caused (e.g. *buton, teror, begining*),
- (3) substituting *f* for *ph* (e.g. *fotografy*), and *t* for *-ed* when it is so pronounced (e.g. *wisht, prest, stopt*).

DHE SIMPLIFIED SPELLING SOCIETY

Finally, you can show your interest in the movement by joining the Simplified Spelling Society, the address of which is given on the cover of this book. However limited your means may be, you will be able to subscribe with a shilling a year, which makes you a member; this subscription assures us of your moral support, which we value highly. It is no easy task that we have taken in hand; our appeal is to millions, scattered all over the earth. We want to establish branches in every important center where English is spoken. We want to gain the sympathetic help of newspapers. We want to dispel prejudice and prepare the path for reform. A great undertaking needs money, and we appeal without hesitation for pecuniary help to those who can afford it. But to all, rich and poor alike, we appeal for the earnest consideration of the cause for simplified spelling which has been put forward in these pages; we believe that there are few causes more worthy of support than this, which aims at the prevention of waste in our schools, at better educational methods, and at rendering more service for all the English language.