

**GLADYS; OR, THE
STORY OV
PENBIRTH**

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Gladys; Or, The Story Ov Penbirth by Julia M. Bengough

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JULIA M. BENGOUGH

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GLADYS,

OR

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THE STORY OF PENBIRTH.

BY

JULIA M. BENGOUGH.

Printed in the First Stage of the Spelling Reform.

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PREFACE.

It is said that in the roll of the ages all good things come at length to those who work and wait. The tangled skein of English orthography is now in a fair way to be unraveled through the labors of Mr Isaac Pitman and the band of workers associated with him in the endeavor to effect a Spelling Reform. To be able to aid in this great and necessary work is a source of gratification. In the orthography of the following story a few threads only of the "tangled skein" are unwound. I leave it to Mr Pitman to describe the process by which he hopes to disentangle the whole.

A residence of many years in Germany has endeared to me both the people and the language of that country. I am, therefore, glad to be able to say that a German translation of "GLADYS" has been undertaken by a lady, and will probably appear in the course of the year.

JULIA M. BENGOUGH.

Darmstadt, 1 January, 1884.

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ON SPELLING.

Four hundred years ago the art of printing was introduced into England. The first printers had enough to do to cut punches, strike matrices, cast founts of type, provide a supply of paper, and print a few books. These pressing necessities of their business left them no time to think of the inadequacy of the alphabet to represent the sounds of the language. They adopted the alphabet that had been used by the scribes in the monasteries, and it appears that they never thought of enlarging or improving it.

The state of English spelling at that time caused great scorchings of heart among a few scholars, who saw and lamented the orthographic vagaries in which the printers indulged. Sir John Cheke and Sir Thomas Smith, about 1540, projected some improvements in spelling, but the printers heeded them not.

In 1788 Benjamin Franklin turned his attention to the subject, proposed some additional letters, and corresponded in his reformed spelling with Miss Stephenson.

In 1788 James Elphinstone published a quarto volume of 395 pages in a reformed orthography. His corrections consisted mainly in doubling a consonant to show that the preceding vowel is short, *ā* for *ā* in *thān*, *s* for *ss* but not in all cases, and *-ciou* for *-tion*.

In the early part of the present century Daniel Webster, the American lexicographer, proposed several improvements, but stopped short of remedying the evil by an enlarged alphabet.

During the last forty years, the dissemination of a system of shorthand writing based on the sounds of the language, has created a general desire for correct or fonetic spelling in all English-speaking countries, and this desire has taken a practical form thus:—

It is proposed to amend the spelling by degrees or stages, first correcting a few of the most conspicuous errors; and when the public eye has become accustomed to the new spelling in these words, further corrections can be made. The entire reform of the alphabet and orthography may be divided into Four Stages, thus

ON SPELLING.

FIVE RULEZ FOR IMPROVING SPELLING, AZ A FIRST STEP TOWARDZ A SPELLING REFORM.

RULE 1.

Omit *a* from the digraf *ea* when pronounst az *e* short, az in *hed, tred, spred, def, helth, relm, medow*, etc.

RULE 2.

Omit silent *e* final after a short vowel, az in *hav, wer, giv, gon, definit, doctrin, forbad*, etc.; except in *done, love*, etc., where *don, lov*, would be misleading.

RULE 3.

Write a singel insted ov a doubl final consonant after a short vowel; az in *shal, wel, wil, of (off), dul*.

RULE 4.

Write *t* or *d* for *ed* when so sounded; az in *lasht, prest, fixt, increast*, etc.; *calld, breathd, formd, opend*, etc.; unles the presceding vowel iz long and singel, az in *hoped, craved*, where *hopt, cravd*, would be misleading.

RULE 5.

For *c* *ck* or *ti* *ch* *f* *g* *o* *rdg* *ph* *s* *z* *le* *re*
write *s* *sh* *k* *v* *j* *f* *z* *sh* *el* *er*

when so sounded, az in

city, ocean, machine, nation, echo, of, gem, ledge, physio, wise, rare, able, metre, sty, cabin, machine, nation, etc. ov, sem, lo, Ask, wise, shure, abel, meter.

When in dout az to the spelling ov a word, write it az it iz pronounst; thus: *ressee, gaje, bicy, biznes, jail, mirakel, colum, rekomend, dum, receive, gauge, busy, business, gaol, miracle, column, recommend, dumb.*

Enceed, proceed and *succeed*, should be written *essede, prossede* (procedure), *succede*, like other words compounded ov *cedo*, az *accede, precede*. Some useful distinctions in the meanings ov words may be pointed out in fonetic spelling; thus, we may speak ov a *koir* (sometimes kalld *kwair*) ov anjels, and a *kwair* (quire) ov paper; *refuze* the *refuss*; and distinguish between a *minit* ov time, a *minute* or small thing, and a *minuts* ov a Committee. The following words, the opprobrium ov etymology, should be restored more nearly to their anshent form:—
delite, det, dout, fether, foren, iland, rime, sovern, delight, debt, doubt, feather, foreign, island, rhyme, sovereign, eithe, tung, hole, sent, sinder, siv (compare *sift*), *spritely, scythe, tongue, whole, scent, cinder, sieve, sprightly.*

The spirit ov this elastic jeneral rule, iz:—Alter spellings in the direction ov pronounsiation, but avoid chanjes that would make words look strange. Hence, for the present, write unsounded letters, az in *gnostic, know, knight, pneumatics, wrath, wright, wrong, bright, brought, high*; and retain the ambiguous *c* in *cease, niece, piece, peace, once*, rather than puzzel the reader with *sease, niece, or neese, piest or pease, or peese, onse* or *wuns*.

If any spelling reformer should consider these Rulez too extensiv

OF SPELLING.

in their application—that they alter too many words—he may employ any one, two, or three of them; and take any portion of the ten changes of letters recommended in Rule 5. Any change whatever from the current, corrupt orthography will be a protest against it, and an acknowledgment that a Reform is needed. The American edition of these Rules embraces only 1, 2, 3, half of 4, and *f* for *ph* in 5, and alters only one word in seventy. This seems like tapping with a geological hammer at a huge rock that obstructs the highway. The "Five Rules" correct all anomalous uses of the consonants, except a few silent letters. These anomalies are reformed in the Second Stage, which is the easiest for the writer in forming a *habit* of spelling; and spelling cannot be executed with despatch till it has become a habit.

These Rules are commended to the attention of spelling reformers for use in all longhand writing where the law or kindness would not be thereby violated. It is useless to do battle now for a complete alphabet, except as a means of teaching reading. Let us first break the spell of the sham literary sanctity that enshrouds the common spelling, by refusing, in a few glaring instances (specified in the "Five Rules") to spell words by letters other than those that are sounded in them. Every spelling reformer should remember that all the great etymologists and philologists of England and America favor a Spelling Reform, and that when Prof. Skeat, of Cambridge, the author of the largest and best "Etymological Dictionary," 4 vols., had finished his great work, he wrote, "From pure love of etymology, and in the interests of the same, I should like to see the present spelling utterly smashed."

This volume is printed in accordance with the above Rules, and is a specimen of the

FIRST STAGE OF THE SPELLING REFORM,

except that only the three most frequent of the ten substitutions in Rule 5 are adopted; namely, *e* for *f* in "of," *f* for *ph*, and *s* for *s*.

SECOND STAGE OF THE SPELLING REFORM.

The five vowels *a e i o u* represent the short sounds which they have in the words

pat, pet, pit, pot, but & put.

C, g, and x are rejected, the remaining eighteen consonants are uniformly employed for the sounds which they ordinarily represent, the following digraphs *ci iu ou ni oi eh th sh zh ng* represent the sounds in

by, new, now, Kaiser, kof; each, thin and then, wish, vision, sing,

and all words, except those that contain long vowels, as written as they are pronounced. Without *new*, or diacritically-marked, letters, or digraphs which disfigure the words, to represent the long vowels, it is not possible to represent the entire language phonetically. The occurrences of *t* and *h*, *s* and *k* are marked thus, *Bat-hurst, mis-kap.*

THIRD STAGE OF THE SPELLING REFORM

â ô î ô õ û ü are employed to represent the sounds in *father, tad, feet, fall, foal, fool, fan*; and *th* is used in "*thin, thick, breath*." Any printer who does not possess these marked vowels can obtain a supply for a shilling or two. With them he can print the English language as spoken. In the