XIII. *An Abstract of the Bills of* Mortality *in* Bridge-Town *in* Barbados *for the Years* 1737 ——— 1744. *communicated by the Rev. Mr.* John Clark.

Read May 26. 1748.

Bridge-Town, Barbadoes.

An. Dom.	*Born*	*Males*	*Females*	*Baptiz'd*	*Buried*
1737	52	26	26	77	208
1738	81	41	40	106	250
1739	91	54	37	119	244
1740	91	49	42	123	242
1741	68	33	35	95	261
1742	87	42	45	130	296
1743	92	43	49	126	252
1744	89	46	43	120	166
	651	334	317	896	1919

XIV. *The Elements of a* Short Hand, *by* Samuel Jeake *Esq*;.

Read May 26. 1748.

A Succession of new Short-Hands published without the Reason of their Construction, having put me on forming a Method founded on Nature, the only Guide to Perfection, I settled an Alphabet in the following Manner.

Having

Having taken in a Book that lay by me a Paragraph as clear of the principal Idea of the Book as any I could find, conſiſting of near a thouſand Letters, I enumerated the Repetitions of each of them, and wrote them down; and thereby made the following Table of the Number of Times each Letter was repeated in 1000. 'Tis true, it cannot be ſaid the Repetitions will be exactly the ſame in every thouſand Letters that may be taken either in the ſame Book or another; but whoever will enumerate them will not find Difference enough to be of Conſequence.

The TABLE.

a	*b*	*c*	*d*	*e*	*f*	*g*	*h*	*i*	*k*	*l*	*m*	*n*	*o*	*p*
81	20	23	45	99	18	18	54	78	3	36	15	66	83	12
q	*r*	*s*	*t*	*u*	*w*	*x*	*y*	*z*.						
0	50	61	95	50	25	0	23	1.						

After having made this Table, I conſider'd with myſelf, that there were in Nature no more than eight ſimple Characters; four whereof are right, and the other four are crooked Lines.

The four right Lines are firſt the perpendicular Line |, and ſecondly the Line of Level —; which make the two Sides of a Square. Secondly the oblique Line / aſcending from the left to right, and the oblique Line \ deſcending from left to right, making the two Sides of the Rhomb; which is the Figure of the Diamonds on the Cards.

The four crooked Lines are only the Semicircle when the Diameter is either above or below it, or on the right or left Hand of it as, ∪ ∩ ⊂ ⊃.

All Characters whatever muſt be made up of theſe, and from their Compoſition, which introduces Ambiguity of Signification, ariſes the Difficulty of reading a Short Hand, which uſes the ſimple Characters for ſome Letters, and compound Characters for other Letters; or, which is as bad, for Words.

This Difficulty, being unavoidable in a Short Hand of more than eight Letters, making it appear that 8 was the Number of Letters a ſhort Hand ought not to exceed, I conſidered it in the following Light.

1. If *a, e, i, o,* and the Aſpirate *h,* be ſuppreſs'd, there will be 19 Letters only remaining to be repreſented by 8 Marks.
2. If *c s x z,* which have a Sound much alike, be repreſented by one Character, there will remain 15 Letters to be repreſented by the other 7 Marks.
3. If *c g k q,* which have a Sound not very different, be repreſented by one Character, there will remain 12 Letters to be repreſented by 6 Marks.
4. If *b p f* be repreſented by one Mark, there will remain 9 Letters to be repreſented by 5 Marks.
5. If *d t* be repreſented by one Mark, only 7 Letters remain to be repreſented by 4 Marks.
6. If *l r* be repreſented by one Mark, only 5 Letters remain to be repreſented by 3 Marks.
7. If *m, n,* are repreſented by one Mark, only 3 Letters remain to be repreſented by 2 Marks.
8. If *u, w,* are repreſented by one Mark, there will remain one Mark to repreſent *y* the only Letter hitherto unmentioned.

Writing

Writing with Suppreſſion of the Vowels hath been always admitted into ſhort Hands of all ſorts, becauſe the Conſonants are look'd upon as radical Letters, which indeed they ought to be. I ſhall ſuppreſs *h*, as being not radical.

All ſhort Hands are ſubject to Ambiguity; for there being but 8 Marks to repreſent 24 Letters; and thoſe 8 being uſed for 8 of them in the Short Hand Alphabets, the other Letters muſt be deſcribed by Characters compounded of theſe 8.

The ranging of the Letters into Claſſes, as is done here, will hardly introduce a greater Ambiguity than all ſhort Hands are ſubject to. So that this Method cannot be reckoned more puzzling to a Reader than any of the reſt.

1. The Repetitions of *d* being 45, and of *t* 95, amount to 140, for the Repetition of this Claſs.

2. The Repetitions of *l*, being 36, and *r* 50, amount to 86, for the Repetition of this Claſs.

3. The Repetitions of *m*, being 15, and *n* 66, amount to 86, for the Repetition of the third Claſs.

4. The Repetitions of *u*, being 50, and of *w* 25, give 75, for the Repetition of the fourth Claſs.

5. The Repetitions of *c*, when of the Nature of *s*, being about half its Number in the Table, may be reckoned 10, thoſe of *s* 61, thoſe of *x* 0, and thoſe of *z* 1, give 72, for the Repetitions of the fifth.

6. The Repetitions of *b*, being 20, of *f* 18, and of *p* 12, give 50, for the Repetitions of the ſixth Claſs.

7. The Repetitions of *c* before *a*, *o*, *u*, being about 13, of *g* 18, of *k* 3, and of *q* 0, give 34, for the Repetition of the 7th Claſs.

8. The Repetition of *y*, being 23, gives 23 for the Repetition of the 8th Claſs.

By a little Reflection it will appear, that the Marks applicable to theſe Claſſes are in ſome meaſure determin'd. For a right Line taking up leſs Time than a crooked Line in its Deſcription, it is plain the four firſt Claſſes muſt be referred to the four right Lines; and the four circular Parts to the remaining four laſt Claſſes.

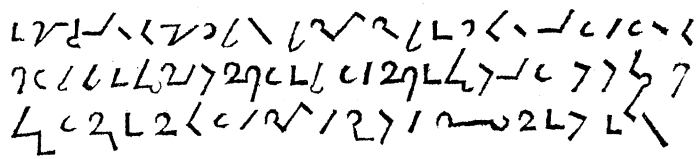
But the right Lines are indifferent to all the firſt four Claſſes, and the circular Parts to the four laſt Claſſes, for the Reaſon juſt mentioned. So that ſo much as relates to the fixing the particular right Line to repreſent the particular Claſs, is at the Liberty of the Inventor of a Short-Hand, to adjuſt agreeable to his own Fancy: And the ſame is true of the circular Parts. Thus any one may perceive how far the Fancy of a Short-Hand Maker is properly bounded or at Liberty.

I ſhall take notice of one ſhortening Rule; which is that of increaſing the Dimenſions of a Line, when the Letter muſt be repeated ſucceſſively; as in *Man*, *rare*, and the like Caſes. This is a good Rule of Mr. *Weſton*.

An Alphabet according to the Claſſes.

dt.	*lr.*	*mn.*	*ww.*	*csxz.*	*bfp.*	*cgkq.*	*y*
/	—	\	|	C	Ↄ	ↀ	ↄ

A Practiſe on the Lord's Prayer.



Which being expreſſed in Letters of the common Alphabet, will certainly convince the Reader how eaſily a Language may be read, tho' the Vowels are omitted. *e. g.*

ur ftr wc rt n vn, llwd b ty nm, ty kndm cm, ty wll b dn n rt
s t s n vn,
gv s ts dy ur dly brd, nd frgv s ur dts, s w frgv ur dtrs, nd ld s nt
ut tmptin, bt
dlvr s frm vl, fr tn s t kndm, t pwr, nd t glry, fr vr nd vr, mn.

As to the Introduction of Marks for repreſenting Words in a Short-Hand, I ſhall not now ſay any thing more about it, than that all Short-Hands, this as well as any other, is equally ſuſceptible of them.

The Advantages of this Short-Hand in the State exhibited, when perfectly learned, ſo as to be wrote readily, will appear to be,

1. That, by Suppreſſion of *aeioh*, or $\frac{400}{1000}$, only $\frac{6}{10}$ of the Time of writing ordinary Long-Hand is neceſſary to write this.

2. That the ſimple Strokes repreſenting the Conſonants, not taking up above half the Time of writing the Conſonants, only half of $\frac{6}{10}$, or $\frac{3}{10}$ of the Time of any thing wrote in Long-Hand is neceſſary for writing this.

3. Right Lines not taking up more than $\frac{1}{3}$ of the Time of Deſcription of crooked Lines, as the Diameter is $\frac{2}{3}$ of the Semiperiphery, it appears, if only right Lines were uſed, theſe $\frac{1}{10}$ would be reduced to $\frac{2}{10}$, by the Subtraction of $\frac{1}{3}$ of $\frac{3}{10}$. But, becauſe the Number of right Lines, all things conſider'd, ſhould not be reckon'd but about double the Number of crooked ones, only $\frac{2}{3}$ of $\frac{1}{10}$ can be taken from the $\frac{1}{10}$; that is to ſay, the Time taken up in writing this Hand will be $\frac{9}{30} - \frac{2}{30} = \frac{7}{30}$ of the Time taken up in writing of the common Long-Hand, or or leſs than the $\frac{1}{4}$ of the Time.

As I have ſhewn all the Principles on which Short-Hands can be conſtructed to Advantage, I have no need to compare this with any other; becauſe I have enabled every Reader to judge of them, by ſhewing within what Limits all Improvements are bounded.

XV. *An Account of a Treatiſe by* Wm. Brownrigg *M.D. F.R.S. intituled,* "The "Art of making common Salt, as now "practiſed in moſt Parts of the World; "with ſeveral Improvements propoſed in "that Art, for the Uſe of the *Britiſh* Do-"minions;" *abſtracted by* W. Watſon *F. R. S.*

Gentlemen,

Read June 15. 1748. I RECEIVED your Commands to lay before you an Extract of our worthy Brother Dr. *Brownrigg*'s Book; which, though at