

Bad Spellers.
Chaucer couldn't spell. Shakespeare couldn't spell. Milton couldn't spell. Or, rather, they were luxuriant spellers. They spelled their words as apple trees blossom. The vigor of their spiritual and intellectual life proved itself by their spelling. Happy men. There were no dictionaries in those days. People supposed that ideas were important then, and loved the notions that came by words—not the letters with which the words were made. And when the writers were in a hurry they wrote the words short, and when they had plenty of time they wrote them long. They would spell the word to a or three different ways on the same page.

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