

The Herald.

DEVOTED TO PRONUNCIATION AND AMENDED SPELLING.

VOL. II, 26.

TORONTO, CANADA, April, 1903.

N^R. 76.

OPINIONS OF EMINENT MEN.

(Continued from pages 87, 100.)

I no few fields where so much good can be done as in simplifying speling. Begin by agreement among riters to change twelv of the worst twists, as *ph*'s and *gh*'s. —ANDREW CARNEGIE.

English orthograpy presents the most extreme ilustration of divorcement of ritn from spoken forms of language. Speling forms no certn guide to sound. The word and not the leter is the unit, appealing to eye, not to ear. One must lern each word by itself. Speling is neither fonetic nor etymologic, merely conventional. Judge inconsistency from a few ilustrations: the voiceles lingual sibilant is sh in *shine*, ss in *issue*, s in *sugar* and *sensual*, si in *pension*, sci in *conscious*, ti in *nation*, ci in *social*, ce in *ocean*, ch in *chivalry*, *charade*, *machine*. K is k in *book*, ck in *duck*, c in *music*, cc in *accuse*, ch in *chord*, q in *queen*, qu in *liquor*. The sound i is e in *me*, ee in *see*, ea in *sea*, ie in *piece*, ei in *conceit*, ey in *key*, eo in *people*, ay in *quay*, i in *marine*, æ in *Cæsar*. —B. I. WHEELER, pres't Univ. California.

WITHOUT NEW LETERS,

To get peopl interested, why not print this compromise between old and new :

i, e, a, ah, o, oh, u, uh, for short vowels;
ie, ei, æ, aa, ao, oo, ue, uo, for long ones;
(but only when necessary to preserv word-
forms long familiar);

rite ai, oi, au, iu, for compound vowels;
uze ch, th, dh, sh, zh, ng, as consonants, with
bo'h c and k, other consonants as uzual.

This plan aims at gradual introduction of a standard alfabet [with 8 vowel-pairs]. All who like it may study improvements.

Mayfield, Ky.

E. FULLER.

[For God so luvd dhe world dhat hie geiv hiz
oonli begotn sun dhat huosoever believeth in
him shuud not perish but hav everlahsting laif.]

NEWS-NOTES AND COMENTS.

—This asks *yu* to subscribe. We aim at a circulation of 10,000. Having no advertizments, we rely on subscriptions. Evry litl helps.

—“With hartiest wishes for a Happy Crismas and a joyus New Year from Mr and Mrs Drummond, Laburnum Hous, Hetton-le-Hole. The vizhonz ov memory ar the dreamz ov yuth. And fansy weavz garlandz ov flowerz ov truth.” So ran a HERALD greeting. We ask readers whether t shud be dropt in Christmas, Christendom, apostle, epistle, bristle, fasten, soften, etc. Our

presnt wordforms come from use of these ules
OMIT useles leters; CHANGE (if sounded so) to
ph or gh to f; let -er denote agent-nouns.

To get Mr D's wordforms, so far as exemplified, requires the second rule to be extended to read CHANGE (if sounded so) d to t, ph or gh to f, f to v, c to s, s to z, and uze zh for the sound j. Is it stil premature to go so far? Trials in these pages appear to sho that use of zh and dh ar not requisit.

—*The Markham (Ont.) Sun* givs a half-column editorial favoring amended speling. It says “Stedy persistent work by such misionaries as THE HERALD will make speling rational and uniform and remove what is complex, unsientific and anomalos.”

—“The Vowel I (as in *pique*)” is an articl of five pages by Dr L. Bevier jun. (Rutgers College, New Brunswick, N. J.) in the *Physical Review* (publisht by Macmillan for Cornell university) for November. It treats i from a musico-acoustic standpoint, much as did Helmholtz in his *Tonempfindungen*, translated by Ellis in a large volume entitled *Sensations of Tone*. It is the concluding paper recording a series of observations on vowels from a to i. A second series (a to u) is promist shortly. Bevier's conclusions ar from machine records. He finds “some speakers habitually articulate i more closely than others;” and defines i as containing these elements: “(1) A powerfully reinforced upper partial at a pitch between 1900 and 2500 [exceptionally in children's voices over 3000 vibrations per second] with considerabl freedom as to exact frequency, oftenest about 2050, therefore calld its normal pitch. American i is generally more open than German i, and its characteristic upper partial loer pitch. On the other hand, much greater frequency is occasionally found and does not destroy the i quality, provided other characteristics ar presnt. (2) A chord-tone, genrally presnt with large amplitude, much larger relatively than for more open vowels. (3) With these two tones presnt a tru i is farther characterized by, comparatively speaking, litl intermediat resonance. This fact is very important, and seems to giv i its peculiar thin timbre.”

—“Changes in the Pronunciation of English” is an articl of over nine pages in the *Nineteenth Century* for December. Ritn from a British standpoint by Eastlake, it shud be perused by evry reader of our pages. It abounds in ex-ampels of past and pasing speech, and is from a popular and literary standpoint, not filologic.

—Scholars and practical peopl ar shy of the “reform.” Some ocourrences giv emfatic discouragement to il-balanced enthusiasts who undertake to force a grotesque confusion of orthograpy and destruction of etymology on us in newspapers, cheap magazines and cheaper books, whether we wud or not. Similar discouragement will be salutory for all who seek to make the language look like “pidgin” either for sake of fonetic theories or of paltry gain in composition.—*New York Tribune*, 7th Oct., 1901.

—The Modern Language Asociation of America met at Baltimore, Md., in Crismas week