

grants began to arrive in 1824. By 1850 it was settled much as now, but towns were smaller.

—Hence Ontario has a basis of United-States speech in both orthoepy and vocabulary. Old-country immigrants' dialects die with them. Their children's speech is conformed greatly, but not entirely, to the fused average about them. Ontario and Michigan are much alike in speech.

—Mr Burch's twentieth article (Brit. & Col. Printer & Stationer, Sept. 1st) gave a cut of our co-worker, astronomer C.W. Knudsen (1818 to 1894) with an account of his work and a facsimile of his New Spelling from THE HERALD, vol., i, p. 117. Mention is made of Prof's Viator and Meiklejohn, Miss Watson, Messrs Story and Fleay.

—On Oct. 7th is found the twenty-first article giving a full account of Dr Larison and three lady assistants, Misses Rudiboc, Phillips and Prall, with cuts of all four and of the Fonic Publishing-House at Ringoes, N. J., also an account of their work and works with facsimiles. Brief mention is made of Witmer, Chase, George W. Moon.

—Mr Thornton's calendar for the Oct.-Nov. quarter has a clockface with no figures 4, 6, 7, 8 or 9. To show the twelve hours, 0, 1, 2, 3, and V are doubled and twisted to do duty for twelve numbers much as do a, e, i, o, u, to show the twelve vowels. The moral is plain: enlarge the number of vowel symbols to something like an adequate number. Send to Addison, N. Y., for the calendar.

—Mr E. L. Pontifex, Swansea, Wales, sends a donation of £2. It will be used to send a missionary (HERALD) to the unconverted. It is astonishing how many millions have never heard of the gospel we proclaim. \$1 will send postpaid 200 messages to as many addresses which donors may specify or leave to our discretion. Reader, send \$1 and 200 names.

—Distribution of literature is a problem not yet happily solved. We are willing to edit serial literature, but the cost of printing and the work of distribution should be met by a thousand willing workers. We assumed that at the start. Assumptions were too sanguine. Who will show increased interest, energy and steadfast enthusiasm as Mr P?

—This asks *you* to subscribe.

—The International Phonetic Association has about 900 members, distributed thus in 1904: — Germany 190, British Isles 138, Denmark 115, France 101, Chile 56, United States 33, Austria-Hungary 29, Finland 29, Switzerland 21, Sweden 21, Canada 21 (of whom 19 are in Ontario and 9 of these in Toronto), Holland 17, Norway 16, Belgium 11, Australia 8, Portugal 8, Russia (outside of Finland) 6, Italy 5, twelve have 4 or less each. The figures for Denmark, Chile, Finland, surprise.

—An International Phonetic Conference was the subject of a paper (Pedagogic Seminary, Dec., 1903) by Robert Stein of the U. S. Geologic Survey, Washington. Last summer the faculty of Boston University put forth circulars about it. Prof. J. Geddes junior, 12 Somerset st., Boston, Mass., is secretary. Prof. Paul Passy, who is now discussing some revision of the International Association, favors the project in a strong circular letter, suggesting that when there is a reasonable prospect for requisite funds, the French government could be got to take the initiative.

—The adoption of a Universal Alphabet is the aim of the Conference. At a conference in 1853, the identification of but seventeen sounds was agreed on, according to Bell. They were so self-sufficient as not to invite either Ellis or Pitman, the they met in London. Lepsius' alphabet and later Max Mueller's missionary alphabet appear to have folded as a result of the conference. The effects on spelling reform (in the interests of which it was not called) were negative.

LITERATURE

REPORT OF A JOINT COMMITTEE representing the National Educational Association, American Philological Association and Modern Language Association of America on the Subject of a Phonetic English Alphabet.

This pamphlet is the first report on a key alphabet for dictionaries. The chairman calls it a "preliminary report" and says "helpful criticism from all points of view is desired." Over 40 pages is the report proper, signed by all; though with differences of opinion on various points" (p. 45) there is no minority report. Three plates and an appendix of 6 pp. more are by Prof. Hempl on certain dictionary notations, phonetic micrometry, dialectic and foreign sounds. The main report is disappointing because not cosmopolitan, nor even British-American, as it "takes as the basis of its proposal the phonetic alphabet recommended in 1877 by the American Philological Association" (p. 3). We wish to quote it as a *Joint Report* on all fours with the *Joint Rules*, but such implication would be simply untrue and misleading. In it are (not judicial decisions covering advances from 1877 to 1904, but) an *ex parte* finding bolstering up a scheme hatched 27 years ago. Spelling Reform Associations were actively at work on both sides of the Atlantic under philological auspices and (outside the *Joint Rules*) gave birth in 1883 to alphabetic plans, one reflected in NED's Key to Pronunciation in 1884, the other in the *Standard's* in 1893. The two are in partial accord only. The fifteen years just past have done more to advance linguistic science than thrice fifteen years before that. Yet this 'basis' ties the committee's hand, gags its mouth, shuts its eyes, though a squint is made to "the monumental Oxford Dictionary—a work of the highest possible authority" (p. 10), then studiously neglected thereafter with its most excellent analytic notation. Much good work prevails, and dozens of moot points are past on. Weak neutral vowels have a symbol provided, an 'a' with its tail removed, which shows it a member of the *a*-family. Careful specimens of differing speech are given. One is three forms of Keats' sonnet, reproduced in New Spelling on our p. 142. We have abundance of "helpful criticism" left.

STYLEBOOK OF THE CHICAGO SOCIETY OF PROOFREADERS. 3d edition, 60 pages 12mo, Ben Franklin Co., 232 Irving av., Chicago. 30 cents.

In the multiplicity of details in such an art as typesetting there must be questions on very many matters of detail. Without agreement on these uniformity cannot be attained. Uniformity expedites labor in a busy hive of workers, a fact too often lost sight of by them who would improve word-forms. Plank 15 insists on the absolute necessity of this. As a guide the *Stylebook* is the best we know of. Its wordforms are not