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The Herald.

DEVOTED TO PRONUNCIATION AND AMENDED SPELLING.

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A TRANSATLANTIC VOICE.

I read THE HERALD with intense interest. I rejoice at your vigorous mental grip of problems, and that the lamp burns with clearness. (I enclose \$1 to supply oil). We have no other organ giving continuous exposition. Even the sons of fonography's inventor refuse discussion in their *Journal*. With a large fortune left them they have not their father's reforming spirit. Mr Drummond takes an active interest—too few others.

Your Platform is splendid as a general guide. I subscribe to every plank. Much of its essence is in a report to the Amer. Philologic Assoc'n, adopting which (moved by Dr Whitney) I seconded in Aug., 1876.

We have to reckon with bitter hostility from printers. Early printers aimed at the fonetic [approximately]. Spoken language has drifted [from Tudor wordforms]. We find letters not pronounced now still kept. Prune these dead, withered branches, itself a mighty reform. We must go farther: correct anomalies. For most of our forty sounds there is no difficulty: sound links to symbol automatically. Digraph consonants (ch, sh, th, ng, dh, zh) are thus provided. It was a great mistake in the 1847 alphabet not to give a, e, i, their values in *pat, pet, pit*. No one dreams of anything else now. The chief differences are as to symbols for vowels in *alms, ail, awl, eel, old, ooze, eider, feud*. Like the man mentioned in THE HERALD [July, '98, p. 4] we have looked everywhere for these symbols, and lo! we have them at hand in the language's web and woof. Fanciful notions about pairing vowels lead astray: notably 'haus' for *house*. This is "made in Germany." Pairing vowels and analyzing diphthongs are side issues but disturbing elements.

You have a grand mission to bring together scattered ideas into a focus of one or two plans well-baked to present them to educational authorities. "Oh, that will be joyful" when twentieth century children are spared inflictions of kakography, "all the people say, amen," and our language spread like wild-fire thru the world.

The English Sp'g Ref'm Ass'n did good work. About 100 schemes submitted it re-

duced to 7. Really the contest was between a scheme with and one without new letters. Ellis having burnt his fingers to the tune of many thousand pounds with matrices and new types gave up new letters with a blessing. Pitman stuck to them like grim death to the last, but he had in effect no following. There is no propaganda for his or any plan here. Among members of the Sp.R.As'n there was no educational enthusiasm, every man fighting for his own plan. So the society died, with little done since.

People say, "You are so divided." Could we not appeal to some individual authority, or, better, a joint commission of British-American linguists appointed by governments? Liverpool, Eng. E. JONES.

A SUGGESTION.

[Ch in Italian sounds k; e before e, i, sounds as ch in our word church.]

Italian recognises tsh as inherent in c. Thus, *Civita* is *Tshivita*, or nearly so; but *Vecchia*, coupled with *Civita* in the name of a well-known port, tho it has two c's and h, is sounded vek'kia. The tsh [tʃ] sound of c must have come down from respectable antiquity. H. J. Roby, M.A., in his excellent Latin grammar, while arguing strenuously against Max Müller and others that c in oldest Latin never sounds s, but always k, admits (p. liii) that, as early as 222 A.D., in Africa at least, the language of humanity admitted forms wherein c was t nearly. Greek, a fine language, has no c. Paul belonged to *Kilikia*, while some people were from *Kappadokia*. Roby insists that CICCERO, tho so writing his name, new himself only as KIKERO, and that CAESAR was no other than KAESAR, father of Kaisers. At any rate, this hardness gave way very early and c became associated with softer tʃ.

Our own forefathers too were sensitive to this association of c: the sturdy bo-man bent his bow and sped his *scaft*; Saxon ears caught the cleric's talk of *episkopos* [overseer from 'epi + skopeō] which he Latinized to *episcopus*. Short work our fathers made of these classic tails; they would not bother with them. As for e in front they appear not to have caught it, *Piscop* they made *biscep*, voicing first p and softening c by ad-