

The Herald.

DEVOTED TO PRONUNCIATION AND AMENDED SPELLING.

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A TRIPL FORCE.

(1) Personal efforts of sp. reformers is most efectiv. The archbishop of Canterbury urged this at the sp. reform conference (London, 1877), modifications to be of minimum character. Wer this done by all its frends, the reform cud not be laft down. Each rites at least a leter a week, or fifty a year. Wer all ritn, as far as expedient, on the lines: "Omit useles letters," they wud do good misionary work. No handbooks ar needed, nor wud epistls caus dout in minds of recipients. Even a novice can conform; how much easier the elect. Wer professers to modify their spelling it wud strengthen the les ilustrios, so working a levening influence.

(2) As Fasion comes from Paris, so may the fasion of spelling rationally come from printers, wer they les conservativ, les rigid. They adhere to "Rules of the Office" as if they embraced the decalog. Authors find it extremely dificult to get the least deviation from orthodoxy. Why shud this be? If a footnote certified the spelling was the author's, as the ideas ar his, the printer's consience o't to be at rest. Is it too much to ask printers, compositers, proofreaders, etc., in their individual or colectiv sferes, to exercise sympathetic influence in direction of reform? If they did so, readers wud setl down to the inovations, as a lady to a new bonet.

(3) "The reform shud begin with the yung at school," say theoreticsympathizers. Wil teachers venture, and rid themselvs and pupils of much labor, time and expense by teaching spelings not shoking to childhood's unsophisticated reason? Twud be a national blessing wer they

"to take arms aguinist a sea of troubles" surrounding orthograpy. Improved methods ofn engage their attention: what beter instrument than purified orthograpy? It is the one thing laking. Wil they aply it?

Personal influence is great, the teacher's is greater, the printer's greater stil, greatest of all is the three in unity.

H. DRUMMOND.

—This invites *you* to subscribe.

NEWS-NOTES AND COMENTS.

—Leter postage from British Isles to Canada is now (not 2½d, but) only a penny.

—A study of spoken (colloquial) Japanese is in hand for intended publication by E. R. Edwards, now in Tokyo.

—*The School Journal*, a long establishit weekly (New York and Chicago \$2 a year) puts in practis: thru, catalog, thoroly, dialog, altho, center, and others.

—"Traffick" was how they spelt it in the 18th century, "Traffic" was prevalent in the 19th. Shud "trafic" prevail in the 20th, wud the hevns fall, the erth fly off its axis, and all things rush hedlong to eternal smash?

—Mr J. M. Mott receivd onorabl mention at the Paris Exposition for his fonetic alfabet with specimens of its application to sevrall languages. He is now busy getting out a treatis on orthoepy for use of teachers and students.

—"Foneloji and Fonotaip" is to be the title of Mr Mott's new book inscribed to teachers. We prefer the title *Fonetics and Fonotipi*, as of late fonology has come to cover historie or antiquarian fonetics and sound-shifting (see Sweet's *Hist. Lang.*, chap. ii), not ment by Mott. It is to be an 8vo page in large type set open, with fonetic rendering of text on right-hand page. This page-by-page reproduction is quite preirabl to a line-by-line one. K, q, x, ar rejected. 18 old consonants ar supplemented by 6 diferentials of c, s, z, n, t, d—alternativs to ch, sh, zh, ng, th, dh. In these diferentials, taild n alone desends; the rest ascend, and so ar in Javal's line of legibility (*HERALD*, i, p. 106), a great merit as oposed to demerit that taild n has with desenders (p, q, j, y) of both lo legibility and liability to hav tails broken, as evry printer soon lerns to his cost. Five vowels hav three diferentials aded; a circumflex over all givs 16 vowel signs. The book, now in pres, is to be wel printed, and shud serv to make pupils as wel as tutors think, perhaps argue—then conviction is sure to folo, becaus Old Speling is as indefensibl as wer the tenets of pagan Rome. "Get them to argue camly, then they'r gon" was an aforism put in practis by erly fathers of Cristianity. We trust Mott's book wil giv great impetus to propagandism, and incidentally help along solution of such vext questions as (a), (b), (c), stated on a preceding page (p. 74).

—"Rubing it in" is sometimes necessary: If readers wil turn to first colum on p. 69 they may read: "If wud-be reformers wud only asume that success depends on united action, they cud accomplish something." Shal another haf century be friterd away "hatching one scheme after another," orshal we setl down to unite thru adherence to establishit principls?

—Australian English is taking characteristics, tho dating only from the rush to the gold-fields fifty years ago. What Ellis calls "the first trustworthy account of Australian English" was furnisht him in Dec. 1887 by Mr Samuel McBurney, principal of the Ladies Colege at Geelong,