

# The Herald.

DEVOTED TO PRONUNCIATION AND AMENDED SPELLING.

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## A TEACHER'S BLESING.

Recently my wife, dauter, a frend (an ex-teacher) and I had tea at a café. Our frend said: "Teachers wil bles yu to all eternity if yu reform speling." I appreciate the opinion of a practical man as to need of reform, casting aside the novice's jely-fish coments. One who day by day had past thru the fiery furnace of English speling new what it was to be burnt, and desired to save others the misery. Will teachers bles reformers and reform? It is questionabl. Gratitude is rare; teachers hav no more than others. Reformers ar never overloaded with thanks: too often the relieved forget relievers: sp. reformers wil die unonord and unsung. Friends ar mortal; truth, immortal. It is beter to bles than to be bles.

A teacher's work being so much out of sight, so litl known or comprehended, it is quite difficult to enlist the genral public, or even the erudite, on his behaf. Difficulties of teaching English ar lookt on as unalterabl; if alterabl, not by outsiders. Didactic methods change. Teaching children to read is changed in method, and *needs to be further improved. Teachers may do much in adopting beter methods, and thus bles themselvs.* Parents shud bak them.

A teacher's blesing means much; a child's, more. Burdend teachers mean a *childhood enslaved*, slaves becaus we ar too lazy, too indifrent to their scolastic welfare. England and America hav done much for emancipation. Hands, heds and harts of liberaters ar needed to snap these chains of needles bondage. Hav senators no curage, no wil, no power to befrend the child at scool? Let them free teacher and child from the tramels of an 'orthografy efete and corrupt,' and a dubl blesing wil rest on them.

H. DRUMMOND.

## NEWS-NOTES AND COMENTS.

—Founding a British Academy, corresponding in some way to the French Academy, is discust. A petition to the King asks incorporation on behaf of 'The British Academy for Promotion of Historical, Philosophical and Philological Studies.' This arises out of forming (1899) an Internat'l Asoc'n of principal scientific and literary Academies. This Int'l Aso'n has two sec-

tions, one of natural, the other of literary sience. When the Aso'n met at Paris in 1900, internat'nal representativs wer greatly surprised to find that whilst the Royal Society represented Britan in fysical sience, no institution suficiently comprehensiv represented British lerning in historic, filosofic and filologic studies. As the Int'l Asoc'n meets in London in 1904, something must be done, and representativ scolars hav carefully considered a scheme resulting in the presnt petition. Among promoters ar Lord Reay, Lord Acton, Messrs A. J. Balfour, John Morley, James Bryce, Lecky, Thomas Hodgkin, Sir R. Jebb, Drs A. W. Ward, Edward Caird, Fairbairn, Robert Flint, J. A. H. Murray, Prof's Skeat and Marshall, and Canons Driver and Sanday. The petition is referd to a committee of the Lords in Council. Poetry, fiction and belles-lettres ar omitted from its scope.

—At least three pronounced speling reformers appear in the above list; namely, Hon. A. J. Balfour and profesers Murray and Skeat.

—Criticism hostile to the Academy thus outlined has develope acording to later advices. Some ridicule an academy with certn men like Henry Morley dropt. Balfour, a leading politician, has oponents in these days of hot politics. Again, an academy may be far from being an unmixt good; so others look askance.

—*Supersede* is very apt to be misspelt with c, apparently thru being misled by false analogy. It comes from Old French *superseder*, that from Latin *supersedere*, compound of *super* (upon) + *sedere* (to sit). *Sedentary* (spelt with s by evrybody) is from the same root.

—*Consensus* is very apt to hav a second c inserted from mistaken analogy. *Consensus* is itself a Latin word introduced unchanged (like *omnibus*, *nostrum*), past particip'l of *consentire* compound of *con* (together) + *sentire* (to feel).

—Chinese standard or received orthoepy is of interest becaus of involvd questions as to what to accept as model speech, questions takld by A. Seidel in his *Woerterbuch der nordchinesischen Umgangssprache* (A. Schwartz, Leipzig and Oldenburg), a suplement to his *Chinesischen Kolonialzeitung*, wherin vocabularies ar arranged under 15 main- and 150 sub-divisions. The Pekin dialect is selected becaus it is (1) the language of the court and capital; (2) the foundation of the language of intercour (the Mandarin dialect) thruout the hole kingdom; (3) the now recognized model of polite conversation; (4) most widely difused of all Chinese dialects, and, as such, wil prove of great use to foreners lerning Chinese.

—*The Dial* (Chicago, April 1) has an artiel on fonetics and speling reform by W. Rice. He points out discrepancies between British orthoepy as shown in NED (the Murray-Bradley New Eng. Dict.) as compared with keywords to Amer. Filologic Aso'n's alfabet. He thinks that (not filologists but) foneticians, specialists in the premises, shud rule. He stirs up maters without reaching anything conclusiv that we see.

—Shuting one's eyes to it, or shirking