

The Herald.

DEVOTED TO PRONUNCIATION AND AMENDED SPELLING.

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GOOD BEGININGS.

The National Educational Association is making a vigorous crusade for simplicity in spelling. At its last annual meeting the secretary was directed to use, in publishing proceedings of that and future meetings, such simplified spellings as should be recommended by the following committee:—Dr W. T. Harris, chairman; Superintendent Soldan, St. Louis, and Superintendent Balliet, Springfield, Mass. Dr Harris has recently notified Secretary Shepard that the committee recommend for use in all official documents the following:—

“program, tho, altho, thoro, thoro fare, thru, thruou, catalog, prolog, decalog, demagog, pedagog.”

These will be bro't before it at the Milwaukee meeting, July 6th to 9th.

The Independent of New York, a large unsectarian religious weekly at \$3 a year, has for a number of years used certain spellings throughout its pages. This is believed to be due to its editor, the learned and liberal W. H. Ward, D. D. Its spellings are commendable to any publisher seeking a suitable start in a better way. Here they are:—

“adz, a'tho, arbor, archeology, ax, ay, beldam, by, catalog, chlorid, cigaret, coquet, cosy, curtesy, cyclopedia, d'bonair; develop, domicil, duet, envelop, epaulet, esthetic, etiquet, facet, foggy, gelatin, good-by, gram, gypsy, hectogram etc., honor etc., household, mold, mustache, myth, novelet, omelet, oriflam, parquet, phenix, pony, program, quartet, quintet, sextet, sheath, story, sty, tho, vedet, whisky, wo, wreath.”

Most of these are not amended spelling. They are rather a selection of the simpler where two word-forms are prevalent. This is necessary to guide compositors at work; else variant forms are liable to appear on the same or adjacent pages, offensive to eye, vexatious and wasteful of time in correcting and recorrecting—a few of many arguments for “fixed spelling.”

The Funk & Wagnalls Co., of Lafayette Place, New York City, publish the excellent *Standard Dictionary*, many books and four periodicals: *The Voice*, weekly newspaper, 8 pages, \$1.50 a year, circulation over 100,000; *The Literary Digest*, weekly magazine, 32 pages, \$3 a year, circulation 25,000; *The Homiletic Review*, monthly, 96 p., \$3 a year, circ'n, 20,000; *The Missionary*,

Review, monthly, 80 pages, \$2.50 a year, circ'n 10,500. About two years ago these publishers proposed to adopt very considerable amendments in spelling throughout all their publications including books. This would have been a great extension to the list they already use for years, viz.,

“adz, altho, Antichrist, archeology, ax, ay, beldam, bequeath, Bering Sea, by and by, catalog, Chile, coquet, courtesy, cyclopedia, czar, debonair, d'magog, develop, diagram, dialog, domicil, duet, envelop, eon, epaulet, epigram, esthetic, facet, fetish, Fiji, gelatin, good-by, gram, gray, guarantee (verb), guaranty (noun), Haiti, hectogram, Hongkong, Kaffraria, kil-gram, Kongo, Korea, Kurdistan, mold, monogram, mustache, myth, nowadays, parquet, pasha, phenix, program, prophecy (n.), prophesy (v.), Punjab, Rumelia, Savior, secrecy, sextet, sheath, skepticism, Sudan, synagog, synonym, technical, tho, Tibet, unchristian, whiky, wreath.”

It is strange that the poets down even to Tennyson have kept such word-forms as “drest,” “mixt,” etc., while they have been banished from our prose literature. Their restoration (for such it is) to prose should be easy. Accordingly, *The Phonographic Magazine*, 20 pages semi-monthly, \$1 per year, Cincinnati, O., began to do this last year, and keeps it going. The Funk & Wagnalls Co. proposed to do the same in addition to the word-list given above as soon as they had received three hundred acceptable signatures of professors, editors and other business and professional men who promised to do likewise so far as they had liberty and opportunity. Requisite signatures were obtained, and these further new preterits, several hundreds in number, at once began to appear in all their publications, except the *Literary Digest* (to begin shortly), and they have kept it up.

Welch's Monthly has followed suit, going farther than the Funk & Wagnalls Co. even promised. It is devoted to the interests of dentistry, published by A. S. Robinson, N. Broad St., Philadelphia, at \$1 per year, and edited by T. B. Welch, M. D., Vineland, N. J. The editor is the main-spring in this. While going further than others it is done with excellent judgment, tho to what extent he goes has not been vouchsafed his readers so far as we know. Following some rules or principles is necessary; otherwise we fall into capricious spelling, in itself an evil.