

The Herald.

DEVOTED TO PRONUNCIATION AND AMENDED SPELLING.

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"OUR LITERARY LANGUAGE"

FIRST STAGE: 1200 TU 1600

About 1200 appeared a remarkable work (named *Ormulum* after the author's own name, Orm) written in north-east Midland of Lincolnshire, the first clear example of the form our literary language was destined to assume, a long dreary poem (10,000 lines) in a sadly monotonous unrimed meter, with introduction, paraphrases read in church during the year, and homilies on them. The sole existing manuscript was written by Orm himself in his own phonetic spelling which he strongly recommends. This and his very regular meter leave no doubt as to grammatical forms, and give his poem, otherwise uninviting, high philological value. Chaucer likewise employed the east Midland dialect with slight modifications of Orm's language due to his living in London instead of Lincolnshire and to living 150 years later. Agreement, as to grammatical usages, is extremely close, allowing for lapses of time, and comparison gives most indubitable results. There is no better way to learn Chaucer's grammar.

East Midland had some varieties: dialects of Lincolnshire and of Norfolk were not quite the same and both differed somewhat from that of Essex-Middlesex; but general characteristics are very much alike in all. In time, speech of students at Oxford and Cambridge closely assimilated to that of the Court in London; and this "educated" type was naturally that to which Chaucer and great 16th century writers endeavored to conform.—SKEAT in *Eng. Dialects*, p. 73.

We pass from Manning to Chaucer, from Chaucer to Lydgate and Chaucer, to Lord

Surrey and Sackville and Spenser without any real change in the actual [Spoken] dialect employed, but only in the form [or Spelling] of it.—*Ibid.*, p. 79.

West Midland differs little from east M. It approaches Northumbrian more nearly in some respects.—*Ibid.*

It is notorious that the Northern dialect admits Scandinavian words freely; true, in less degree, of east-M., rare in Southern and southern west-M. Constant Danish invasion and subjection of England by three Danish kings, Cnut and successors, materially increased our vocabulary; more for dialects than standard language.—*Ibid.*, p. 88.

ORTHOGRAPHIES IN AUSTRIA-HUNGARY

In Austria-Hungary fourteen languages are spoken—eleven in the army—a hot-bed in politics with antipathies in race, language and religion as important elements. Canada has the same in less degree.

Austria-Hungary, mostly inland, reaches the head of the Adriatic sea, with Trieste its main port. Recently a direct passenger and freight service was established from there to Canada (Trieste to Saint John, N.B.) This and the recent Turco-Balkan war bring "near-east" nations in evidence by great immigration therefrom of Bulgarians, Serbs, Rumanians, Poles, Chechs, and the rest. Their languages, written and spoken, have great interest. Capt. F. Baron de Haan, Chief of Coast Pilot Bureau of Austria-Hungary, wrote from Trieste a general statement to every word of which we ask market attention, because many parts of our general problem (evolution of a real Orthography) find solution there already.

EXPLANATION: OMIT useless letters; CHANGE (if sounded so) *d* to *t*, *ph* or *gh* to *f*; *o* to *u* in *to*, *do*, *who*, *prove*, *move*, *behave*, *shoe*, *canoe*.

For fuller explanation and Platform see cover of Annual of New Spelling (postpaid, 10 c.)

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