

The Herald.

DEVOTED TO PRONUNCIATION AND AMENDED SPELLING.

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A GREAT PRELAT AND SPELLING.

In *Memoirs of Archbishop Temple*, just to hand, we lern that at six he cud do "any arithmetic," and before he went to scool new Latin gramar, Euclid (including the uncomon 11th and 12th books), spoke Italian (as wel as English), and modern Greek; yet, he had special dificulty in speling. If ever he attempted to argue that certain letters did not spel a word, his mother wud say "Freddy, don't argue, do yur work."

His is the experience of evry one, tho all sorts of excuses ar made. English peopl hug their "efete and corupt" speling as tho it wer angels' work; yet Mrs Temple wud not alow her brilliant boy to argue about it! If a thing or system wont stand the test of reason it is unworthy of adoration. What his mother forbad he did when bishop of Exeter: he rote Mr E. Jones, B.A., (sec. of sp. ref'm Conference, 1877): "I take much interest in proposed speling reform;" suggested forming a society of educated peopl pledged to spel fonetically in riting and in print, discarding the presnt system. The success of such a society wud, he tho't, depend greatly on their making the minimum change, with no new characters, but a few diacritics.

H. D.

A SENSIBL VIEW.

The number of peopl who vehemently love the dificulties, absurdities, inconsistencies—crystalized ignorances—of present speling is very small. Neither their denunciation nor their ridicule wil weigh hevily on the great majority who think speling a means to an end, an end quite difrent from preserving etymologic history in most deceptiv, expensiv and clumsy forms. One might imagin from how enemies of this reform go on, that any changes made now wud be the first to which speling had been subjected—establishment of an evil precedent insted of merely a slight hastening, for convenience and economy, of a proces going on stedily ever since English became a ritn language. A correspondent says: "before we monky farther with an instrument as good as English, we o't to uze it properly." Wel, not necessarily. With a litl, even a lot, of "monkying" an amount

of time, incalculably large, now devoted to lern such utterly useles and imbecil things as aranging vowels in *siege* and *seize*, cud be uzed on the task that our corespondent wisely intimated as important. The Simplified-Speling Board's personality is garanty that demand for improved orthografy is not an outgrowth of ignorance or irreverence. They hav great afection for the history of words, and ar not at all likely to do what wil hide or distort it. They wil, however, put and keep that history in its proper place.—*New York Times*.

THE STUMBLING BLOK.

On March 4, 1906, I met a very bright twely-year-old girl. She expects to graduate next year from the public scools of New York city. But if she fails, she says it wil be oing to speling, her worst branch. 336 w. 44, New York. G. W. WISHARD.

NEWS-NOTES AND COMENTS.

—HERALD receipts in 1901: Hunter \$36.45 Drummond \$14.55, Pontifex \$4.86, Broomel, Phipson, each \$2, Tyson \$1.50, Hempl, Kimbal, Lyon, Werner, each \$1, Wray \$0.35, Wm Jones \$0.32, Boss \$0.28, Comp, Hicks, Hollingworth, Wishard, Mott, Sauer, Wilcox, each \$0.25, Johnson \$0.12.—Total \$68.18.

—The Simplified-Speling Board advocates no scheme of "fonetic reform," nor radical change of any kind. It beliefs in Sainte-Beuve's suggestion: "Orthografy is like society: it never wil be entirely reformd, but we can at least make it les vicios." Therefore the Board wishes, first, to awaken atention to the unfortunat condition of our speling; second, to encourage the tendency toard simplification by omission of useles letters—a tendency at work from the beginning, and which has made it posibl to spel *honor, wagon, almanac, music, comedy, fantasy*, insted of *honour, waggon, almanack, musicke, comedy, phantasie*. The Board wud like also to restore older spelings better than later perverted forms—*rime*, for exampl, *sovran, island*.—BRANDER MATTHEWS in *New York Nation*, 26 April.

—We hav to thank Messrs Boss, Drummond, Marriot, Morris, Thomson and Wishard for markt copies of recent newspapers.

—Stōv'l or stōv'l is how *Stouffville*, the name of a vilage in York co., Ont.; is pronounced by residents therof.

—Tilsonburg, a vilage in Oxford co., Ont, was named after peopl named Tillson, of whom desendants stil liv there and ar famos for a brand of manufactured oats. They persist in speling their name with a dubl l. The official speling has been made Tillsonburg recently with this unnecessary dubl l, a retrograde step.