

street-cars. Asking for news of the greatest reform on earth, he soon received recent clippings from Chicago papers, and next day *The World* proclaimed its advance in practice. Mr McLean expressed strong convictions on these three points: (1) The first thing to be done is to smash the Old Spelling fetish. (2) A type-setting machine costs \$3000; a type-riter, \$100. With so much capital invested in these expensive machines (with an expensive operator of each) why keep both machine and operator one our or so every day putting in silent letters? They crowd out useful matter, filling space greatly needed. (3) General change of ph to f shud soon be bro't about. So far as we no, but one objector to *The World's* advance has yet appeared, the musty-stale etymologic objector, anserd editorially.

—*The Journal of Education* (London) for December had letters on fonetics from Mr Atkinson and Mr Drummond, the former advocating them in acquisition of languages, the latter (in reformd spelling) for school purposes.

—Hardly any one in the world of letters declines now to acknowledge the desirability of Spelling Reform, tho left to next century to carry it to effect.—Phonetic Journal's Annual Adress.

—Anglo-Saxon has grown and continues to grow very satisfactorily. Text-books in Latin do much harm by fostering belief that English is not a decent language in which to learn classics. The idea still clings to some professors that it is hardly fit to be used. With this I disagree entirely, and think it not inferior to any.—Prof. Skeat, as president Mod. Lang. Association.

—All the most valuable improvements made recently in etymology have resulted mainly from study of fonetics accompanied by close and careful observation of rith forms in early manuscripts. Spoken utterance really constitutes words and sentences; rith characters are mainly symbols, convenient for recalling such words and sentences, but still subservient and subordinat. [Moulton corroborates this on page preceding]. I speak feelingly, because in my own education I was left to pick up French and German sounds as best I cud, with scarcely any help.—Prof. Skeat, *ibid.*

—THE HERALD, 57 Harbord st., Toronto, Canada, (no more, no les) is the best way to address the most advanced journal on earth. Then there will be no mistakes made with the Christian Endeavour Herald on Richmond st., nor with a certain patent-medicin, cure-all Herald.

—The Chicago *Tribune* (alas! shade of Modill!) of 21st Jan. had an article against spelling reform by Ira W. Howarth, Ph. D., instructor in sociology, Chicago university. It is verbose and learnedly weak—extremes meet. Near the end it tells us: "All that I have said against sp. ref. applies, of course, only to sweeping irrational proposals. There must be change, there must be progress, but it shud be along old lines—by growth." Meantime, the sociologist's co-laborer, Semitic linguist R. F. Harper, is at the opposite pole. One says "Go slo, gro"; the other: "Thro aside sentiment, let's have brand-New (scientific) Spelling." The world is wide enough, our platform broad enough, for both to work in harmony, both results used concurrently, one a syndrom or alternativ of the other.

—A Cristmas card, dainty in its neatness, conveyed greeting to THE HERALD by this legend: "Friendship, like the ivy, clingz To olden times and olden thingz.

May Cristmas bring you Joy and the New Year every Happiness from Mr and Mrs Drummond, S. Nicolas Hous, Hetton-le-Hole," Eng. [speld so.]

—The Department of Superintendents of the N. E. A. met for several days in March in Chicago. About 1000 were present from all directions, especially from states contiguous. The com-

mittee on spelling reform advised no new steps, declaring the great need of the day is to establish more firmly and widely the changed spellings already adopted by the Association. In view of this need they urged (by resolution) N. E. A. directors to appropriate \$1000 a year for five years for spelling propaganda under direction of: Dr W. T. Harris, pres't, Dr N. M. Butler (Columbia University) 1st vice-p., Pres't W. B. Harper (Chicago Univ.), 2d vice-p., Sup't F. L. Soldan (Saint Louis), Prof. F. J. Child (Harvard), Dr Ward (editor of Independent), Prof. Lounsbury (Yale), W. D. Howells, Sup't Andrews (Chicago), Benj. E. Smith (managing editor Century dictionary). The committee explained that while these men had not all been consulted, all were well-known as earnest advocates of spelling reform. It authorized the commission to fill vacancies in itself, certain that enough would accept to organize and start a definite movement to mend spelling. It aroused considerable discussion, being supported by Sup't Bright, Col. Parker, and others. A motion to refer the report to the directors without recommendation was voted down. A motion to accept the report and make it a special order at the next meeting of superintendents was carried.

—*The Intelligence*, a journal of education, in its 21st year, furnishes information for the paragraph above. E. O. Vaile is editor and publisher at Oak Park, Ill., a suburb of Chicago. It puts in practice quite a number of amended spellings.

—Chicago advocates of better spelling are neither snuffed out nor discouraged, but hopeful. The "close vote" recorded by the Times-Herald was a simple turn-of-the-scale of one, that would have been a tie had Pres't Harper voted. Besides, there was a bare quorum present. There is reason to hope, or even to no, that among absentees better counsels will prevail. When another pul comes the result may be different, unless the folly of retrograde, old-world Padua is to be repeated in progressive, new-world Chicago.

—*Gleanings in Bee Culture*, semi-monthly (Medina, O., \$1 a year), is disposed to practice some revised spelling, but objectors among subscribers prevail. Habit, prejudice and unreason prevail. Get people to reason: the bottom drops out of their case.

—This invites you to subscribe.

L I T E R A T U R E.

L'ECRITURE PHONETIQUE, par Paul Passy, Docteur es-lettres, Directeur-adjoint à l'École des Hautes Etudes, 2me édition, 1/2 franc, Paris, Librairie Populaire, 119 B'd Sebastopol.

LES SONS DU FRANÇAIS, leur Formation, leur Combinaison, leur Représentation, par Paul Passy, 5me éd., 1/2 francs, Paris, Librairie Firmin-Didot, 56 Rue Jacob.

L'Écriture Phonétique is a pamphlet of 17 pages 12mo—a popular, tho brief, exposition of how to use the International Assoc'n's alphabet to record speech. Principles are discussed in three pages, the alphabet defined in two more, a vis-à-vis specimen of French is on p. 6, script forms on p. 7 (and 25), applications to French take pages 8 to 21, pages 22 and 23 give the alphabet's extension to other tongues. Pages 26 to 47 give a vers (John iii, 16) in 137 languages or dialects.

Les Sons du Français is a paper-covered book of 190 pages 12mo, going over much the same ground as *L'Écriture Phonétique* but discussing it thoroughly, a full treatise on fonetics. After considering noises and sounds in general and the production of speech-sounds in particular, a notation for them is reached (p. 21). Part 2d (p. 23 to 129) treats all phenomena of speech and the constitution of language, as intensity, pitch, quality, syllabification, duration, intonation, double sounds