

Now, we take it, the essential purport of all this is: 1) Symbols (letters) are used in their historical or etymologic sound-values. (NED, or *Oxford*, is, par excellence and alone, founded "on historical principles"). Historical values correspond to cosmopolitan usage. 2) Symbols are arranged in pairs, or, rather, triplets, that show their mutual relations now and in bygone ages. Both points are not true of other dictionaries, whose notations are chosen for (not principle, but) convenience. Result, a jumble inconsistent alike with fonology of past or fonetics of present times. Vowel symbols, especially if put in pairs or triplets, are readily held in mind with their relations self-evident. Ordinary dictionaries simply fail to do this; NED and the *Standard* succeed. They re-echo filologic deliverances on two sides of the Atlantic. Do they agree throughout? No, they take different values for two vowels (a, o). We may follow one or other, but hardly both.—Which should it be?

INVASION AND EXODUS.

New England east of the Connecticut river, long considered a dialectic preserve, is losing that character. We learn that

"However unwilling some New Englanders may be to acknowledge it, the present large immigration of people from other parts of the English-speaking world is introducing into New England a more general form of English; and that the Irish have a part in the movement there can be no doubt. It is observable in both pronunciation and vocabulary. . . . Prof. Grandgent says conservative æ, which still prevails, with but little variation, in most of America, is now crowding out a [ask, fast, farm] in New England."

On the same page (*Dialect Notes*, vol. ii, page 254) Prof. Hempl records this letter from a lady near Boston:

"I have come recently to New England after long residence in California and note changes in pronunciation and vocabulary of my acquaintances here during 25 years. In persons of my own generation, still more in the younger, I note tendency to flatten a [farm] to æ, dæns [dance] most of them say. They sound h more in wh, and perhaps roll r more. In general, however, this letter, when final, is still silent."

This exodus of natives (see Roessler's letter on our p. 159) coincides with a low, and still falling, birth-rate, and gives point to Dr Drummond's *Yankee Families* (see our p. 155). Recently a little French-Canadian took by rail her nine children from the Adirondacs to their father in Maine. The eldest was seven, followed by four pairs of twins. The nine paid at 1½ fares.

"Exodus" hardly applies to Maine, where in parts before remote an era of railroad building, mining, making pulp, farming and general activity has begun, like that in northern Ontario. Railroads open new districts with fertile belts, unknown or inaccessible before—invasion, no exodus.

A VETERAN'S COUNSEL.

a in ask, e on, u up, a ale, o for, y sing, receive such general approbation that any alphabet must contain them or be doomed to fail. K seems on the upgrade. Why not c for ch in chime, x for z? Then we place all old letters except q. Abolish capitals.

Venice, Ill. WELINGTON WILCOX.

[Mr W. started to have convention of 1876. His counsel deserves respectful thought. An irreducible minimum is the vowel-signs in may we come (which Mr W. writes ma wi cəm). Prof. Skeat says the real crux of any alphabetic scheme is how it represents the vowel in come—his irreducible minimum. Between Englishmen who cry "no new letters" and Americans who insist on several, necessary accord is yet afar. The mills of the gods linguistic grind slowly, but exceedingly fine.—ED.]

LITERATURE

Skeat's *Primer of Classical and English Philology* (Frowde), just out, has much, especially in its earlier chapters, that bears more or less directly on our problems. As Papillon says (*Compar. Philol.*, pref.):

"minute study and comparison of the forms of two such languages as classic Greek and Latin, or of two or more among the languages of modern Europe, with due comprehension of the laws of fonetic change that have operated to produce existing divergences from common forms, is the best possible preparation for adequate grasp of any of the problems into which the science of language enters."

Too many of us prefer to shut our eyes to what light there is, and go blindly on, with no guide or accepted guiding principles, busily "hatching one scheme after another," and leading to Bedlam's Discord.

The yearly volume of *Neuere Sprachen* ending March 1906 has four noteworthy articles: 1) an appreciation or estimate of Furnival and his work to age of 80, attained 4 Feb. '05. It is in German by Schröder of Köln (Cologne). 2) Jespersen of Copenhagen gives, translated into German, a history of fonetics (*Zur Geschichte der Phonetik*). 3) Lloyd has a series of continued papers on Glides Between Consonants in English, one being on syllables and syllabication. 4) Prof. Geddes of Boston pleads for a Universal Alphabet settled by an international convention soon.

KITCHEN FRENCH, a Dictionary of terms used in Cookery. Part I, Fr.—Eng. Part II, Eng.—Fr. Ben Franklin Co., 232 Irving av., Chicago. Oil-dyed paper, 25 cents.

Armed with this traveler's vest-pocket consultee one is ready to tackle French bills-of-fare. Without it there are tantalizing, aggravating, exasperating blunders. The average French dictionary (if at hand, but its bulk forbids) gives little help in dining-