

PHONETIC PIONEER.—No one can dispute that the title of fonetic pioneer in Ontario is due to Mr Wm H. Orr of Toronto. So long ago as 1858 he began publishing in Oshawa a small 4 paged monthly called the *Phonetic Pioneer*, and continued it til 1862, when other busines engagements stopt it. Its chief object was to spred a knowledge of fonetic shorthand, being a means of communication between its editor and the many who then began shorthand. Mr Orr purchast a font of fonetic type as then uzed by Mr Elias Longley of Cincinnati, Ohio, and gave illustrations of speling by sound in several issues of the *Pioneer*. He also issued a Canadian edition of Mr Longley's Manual of Fonografy and the Canadian Fonografic Copy-book, seling over 1000 copies of each. Many fonografers and speling reformers of the present day received their first lessons from these publications. The *Pioneer* was the representativ in what was then Canada West in a movement to introduce speling by sound in Britain and America. Amendment in speling was then parasitic on its self-supporting brother, shorthand. It is stil so to some extent, altho ther is no necessary connexion between. A litl effort wud make the former independent as it shud be. The Slaveholders' Rebellion put a stop to the movement in U. S., and Mr Orr's duties as parliamentary reporter at Quebec and leader-writer for the *Globe* at Toronto stopt the *Pioneer*. Of late years ther has been a revival—a new departure—in America. Simplified Speling has a fobthold and is wining favor on its own merits as an educational advance. The *HERALD* endeavors to stand alone with the apron string severed between Amended Speling and its foster mother. Rational Speling is like an acorn. It can become a growth of towering strength under favoring conditions or be crusht out for want of them. The *HERALD* wil giv illustrations of speling by sound as the *Pioneer* did and wil discus at the same time the orthografic orthoepic etymological fonological and fysiologial principls involvd. Its exampls wil mirror such advances in alfabetics as hav been made meanwhile and ar stil going on more actively than ever. It wil at the same time perform missionary work.

Mr L. Lyon sends a communication from Conneaut, Ohio: 'I think that of the sounds specified on p. 17 the 11th and the 3rd ar the same in quality, as ar the 14th and 6th, as also the 15th and 7th. The English uze the 10th where we uze the 11th. I hav traveled from Canada to N. Orleans, and from Boston and Washington to St. Paul, and hav tried to be observing. I talk of what is, regardles of what shud be, and do not presume to be a fonetist. I write *ar*, ar; *there* thar; *parent*, parent; *where*, hwar. Many more say ask, fast, etc., than ask, fast, etc.'

Dr. C. W. Larison writes from Ringos, N. J.: "Among the schoomen of N. Y., Penn. Delaware, N. J., Maryland, Virginia and Ohio I am extensivly acquainted, and, when in their presence, am sedulously attentiv to their orthoepy and modes of utterance. I am confident that les than four per cent of all that I meet uze a before *r* in words such as *care fare pare* etc. Indeed so far as I go, except in New England & northern N. Y., the sound *a* is considered cacophonous, and they who uze it ar uzually stigmatized as affected fellows who ar over anxious to show that they ar of Puritan descent or els hav been at school in New England."

[We find that when we ar to our ear using a as in *at* in such words, some who hear tel us we ar uzing a as in *ape*. This shud be borne in mind by all observers. Ther may be a psychological principl involvd, or one involving the physiology of the ear.—Ed.]

Mr W. C. Albro writes from Pokepsie N. Y.: "If *there fare marry carry arrow* be speld thar far mari cari aro; while *their fair Mary Cary fairy* etc: ar speld thar far Mari Cari fari etc. a very important distinction as to several words as well as to pronunciation wil be indicated. *A e ui ei ea aye* before *r* and having the peculiar and not very frequent sound of *a* in *care* seems to be best represented by a as *Mari thar par er bar prar*. The sound is a modified by *r* following."

We lern that a new work on the Marriage Relation is in pres in N. Y. and that its speling wil accord with the 24 Rules.