

The Herald.

DEVOTED TO PRONUNCIATION AND AMENDED SPELLING.

4TH YEAR.

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REVIZING WORDS.

"We must ofn deal with words as the Queen does with gold and silver coin. When this has been curent long, and by much use and ofn pasing from man to man, with perhaps ocasional clippings in disonest hands, has quite lost the clear brightnes, the wel-defined sharpnes of outline, and a good part of weight and intrinsic value which it had when first issued, it is the soverer's prerogativ to recall it, and issue it anew with her image stampd on it afresh, bright and sharp, weighty and ful as at first. Now to a proces such as this the tru mint-masters of language wil ofn submit words."

So rote Trench in last chapter of "Study of Words." Our words incorporate such bad etymology, bad fonology, letters silent, letters useles and worse than useles (positivly misleading), that it is quite time many of them wer melted down and recast in beter forms. Scores of our words ar perfectly fonetic: "send," "hint," "winter," etc. These shud be retaind, and the others made to aproximatly represent the sound. Many individual words ar now gradually coming into line. Let this be encouraged. A good simpl rule (like "Change ph to f when sound-ed so") wil bring regiments of words a litl more into line in hole or in part. Other simpl and easily aplied rules wil march in other regiments until sensibly-spelt words can be counted by thousands where now we hav scores, and the labor of acquiring the language and using it much shortnd and simplified. We favor having "the wel of English undefiled," we do. We hear a good deal about this "undefiled English." Our language, as to its orthograpy, is so badly defiled by bad etymology, etc., the "wel" has water positivly undrinkabl and putrid, made so chiefly by the excreta of conceited pedagogs, mechanical and unscolarly printers from Caxton down, helpt on by blind chance and happy-go-lucky acretions, moss, rust,

and filth. It's about time we had "Eng-lish undefiled."

STANDARD VOWELS.—The World's Fair is to be held in Paris next year. It has been suggested that a general meeting of the International Asocia'n shud then be held, probably in Aug. The time wil come when such meeting wil be indispensable. Ther is quite as much need for it as for geografic and other congreses. Diferent nations using Roman alfabet shud be represented and expens shud be borne by cuntris interested. A question alredy presing for solution is, What vowels shal be considered standard? Around those deemd standard, varietis may cluster. Standard speech-sounds, especially vowels, deserv definition both popularly and with rigid scientific exactnes shud that be found posibl, tho the problem is hardly advanced enuf in solution for that yet. Until we ar defined what we ar considering we ar but misunderstanding each other. The Electric Congres at Paris in 1881 defined the unit (one Ampere) of electric-curent strength. That was more sutl than a vowel. Exact definition is necessary and wil be had in time.

—The "Amer. Annals of the Def," Washington, D.C., givs expression to views quite "too radical" for our former oponent, the "Observer." In the latest number, that for Oct., we read: "While we shud be glad for filologic, filanthropic and moral reasons to see 'World-English' adopted as the language of the world, we wish, especially for our def pupils, that it might suplant the present anomalus and caotic mode of speling English. What a boon to our teachers of articulation and to their bewilderd pupils wud it be if evry sound had its own unvarying sign, and evry sign its own unvarying sound, afording an immediat guide to its correct utterance! We do not expect to see that in our day but rejoice in evry efort . . . that tends to hasten its consumation."