

## ELLIS ON PRONUNCIATION.

Early Eng. Pronunciation is the title of a work in four parts or volumes rittn by A. J. Ellis and publisht at intervals from 1869 to 1874. It deals with our orthoepy at all stages up to the present. The fifth part is now under way and will be publisht as *Existing Phonology of Eng. Dialects*. It includes the Scotch dialects. An abridgment will be publisht simultaneously by the Eng. Dialect Society with title: *Eng. Dialects — their Sounds and Homes*. These five parts of E. E. Pr. may be considered the result of nearly 30 years' work by Mr. Ellis (in which he has sifted loads of old and recent material bearing on pron.) His results will be valuabl in considering the yet unsolv'd problem of what pronuncia'n is to be consider'd standard. With appearance of fifth part, the British side of the case may be consider'd herd. American aspects of speech hav to be compar'd with these. It will be a question as to whether varia'ns of sound herd in cisatlantic speech hav develop't here by non (or to be non) laws of speech-change or wer they import'd in the speech of British imigrants. Comparing cisatlantic with transatlantic speech we hope to see develop't a standard British-American language, which will then (in beter orthographic dres, put in a valid and reasonabl claim to become in effect a world-language Ellis, in reporting progress of his work to Filologic Soc. on 6th May, 1887, said, "It wil doubtles be reserv'd to some future filologist, possibly of German extrac'n, [a high compliment — yet can't anybody but a German do good work?] to exploit my materials properly. But I consider the main value of my investiga'ns not to be specially English, but generally filological, as respects related forms of words. We hav hitherto had to treat these as relations of groups of letters rather than groups of sounds. . . . . I here present for the first time in uniform orthography, carefully prepared, elaborated and explain'd, the pronuncia'n of one language in its varius forms from Land's End to the Shetlands, and offerin' sufficiently striking contrasts, deriving informa'n, not from books of ded authors imposibl to verify or explain by immediat intercour's, but from living men and women who either themselvs speak the dialect, or hav had long and constant intercour's with natural speakers, and who wer not only capabl of being interview'd, but hav actually been frequently interview'd or examin'd on paper in cours of long correspondence til something aproaching certnty had been evolv'd. The numerus illustra'ns therefore which I present ar a fund of future filologic investiga'n, and I shal spare no pains in giving them correctly to the linguist as I hav spar'd no pains or labor or time in collectin' them from numerus obligin' informants."

—Cluf is how they pronounce Clough.

—Why is Brooklyn, N. Y., spelt with a y, while Brooklin, Ont., has i?

—Dougherty has, in several instances he cud give, been sensibly improved by leavin' out ug, givin' "Doherty."

—Bill Nye says, "We hav peopl enuf who no how to reform the world, but those willing to take of their coats an I attend to it personally, ar absent without leav'."

—At a banquet at Pictou, N. S., on occasion of openin' a railway, Principal McKay, of Pictou Academy, a leading scientist, and president of N. S. Sumer Scol of Science, said: "I want to see a railway thru our spelling system, a system not based on philosophy, lernin' or anything els; a railway thru our weights and mesures; and a railway thru our riting, which was five times longer than need be."

—*A Study of Child Language* is the title of a paper by Alvarez, of Seville, Spain, in *Trans. Phil. Soc.* for 1885. It discusses certn speech-phenomena observ'd by the author in his own children during infancy as their imita'n of vowels and consonants which they had not yet lern'd to enunciate. Until a new sound is lern'd, the child appears to substitute another sound more readly made by it. From such a standpoint, "baby-talk" is interesting.

—The stupid practice prevails of making children memorize and rite lists of words insted of consecutiv sentences. The book that has largest circula'n in this cuntry, Webster's Sp.-book, is the stupidest and most meaningless book. This practice of drummin' singl words, leter by leter, into heids of children, afords no assistance whatever in acquirin' power of expression; it is mere parot-like lernin', unconnected with tho'ts. Ther is no surer way to make a simpton of a boy than to drill him for a spelling-match, the lasin' stoc of foreners and favorit exercise of nativs.—ROBERT WATERS, in *May N. A. Review*.

—Bishop Taylor is wel non all over. Of late he has been bro't into prominence by leadin' in havin' establish't self-supportin' missions in Africa of which he is hed and resident manager. When in America in 1884, he had print'd in Cincinnati a fonetic edition of New Testament. Bein' again here this sumer we took trubl to find out what use had been made of edition. The use as yet has been very limited becaus in his field, Loanda, Portuguese is the prevalent European tung. The nativ iern Portuguese by commercial intercour's chiefly and it is thru the gate of Portuguese that the nativ has to be reacht. Of the 477 languages counted in Africa but few hav been rittn or print'd. We gain'd this informa'n from himself on meetin' him at Niagara Falls in August.