

NEW SPELLING

Worcester in cisatlantic circles there have been added the *Century* and *Standard Dictionary* with revision of Webster called *International* and one of Worcester is under way; in transatlantic circles, to Stormonth and Ogilvie, often called *Imperial*, there has been added Murray's, or *New Eng. Dict'y* of the Philol^c Soc^y, so far published as to be useful, while a *Dialect Dict'y* is promised. Passy's *Maitre Phonétique* still comes regularly from Paris printed throughout in an alphabet capable of expressing most modern languages and is an actual polyglot, but in colloquial speech only, not in its vocabulary or standard dictionary forms. Besides, Prof. Vietor's *Phonetische Studien* now published as a supplement to *Neuere Sprachen* (i. e., Modern Languages) discussing higher linguistics in formal papers by different writers, each article being printed in the language of the writer himself. Recent publication of Part V of Ellis' great work on *Pronunc'n*, with activity by *Dialect and Philological Societies* (through their publications) on both sides of the Atlantic, altogether opens up a new era which should herald advancement in Alfabetic Science.

Without support little real progress can be made. In the words of A. J. Ellis:—

"Truth is great and must prevail.
Trite the adage: How? and when?
Trial tells another tale;
Truth HAS FAILED; will fail again,
If not bakt by truthful men."

Its fuller title is: THE HERALD OF NEW SPELLING, A CRITICAL REVIEW, REGISTER, NEWS RECORD, EXPONENT AND REPORTER OF PROGRESS IN ALFABETIC SCIENCE—summed up in *News, Criticism, Progress*.

If 100 earnest workers will circulate, judiciously and carefully, an average of 100 copies (in all, 10,000 quarterly) it can soon spread such knowledge of Amended Spelling, and the principles and practicability of true Orthography, that thinkers would be largely levnd thereby.

Each subscriber will be a missionary, the main-spring in the circle of his own influence. He will receive regularly AT LESS THAN COST a tool with which effective work may be done if so disposed.

THE ORTHOGRAPHIC UNION.

The Orthographic Union began 1½ years ago. Its secretary is F. A. Fernald, of Morris Heights, N. Y. City. Its first annual report appeared in midsummer. It has 193 members, of which

"The names . . . are largely those who exert notable influence on public opinion in various fields and who have it in their power to employ this influence in promoting the objects of the Union."

Its immediate work, it goes on to say,

"should be, not advocacy of any perfected and far-reaching system of reform but a simple attempt

to induce people to make those first steps toward better things the propriety of which can be questioned by no one who believes in reform at all. . . . Accordingly, five classes of simplified forms which conform in general to these conditions have been selected, and a leaflet explaining them printed. . . . There has been prepared an Alfabetic List of words in general use that fall into the several classes in form of a 24 page pamphlet of post card size."

This word-list comprises over 1000 words "mostly selections from alternative spellings already in use or improvements proposed by scientific and other learned societies, and include such changes only as a considerable number of authors, editors and educators express willingness to unite in using."

The 5 classes are: (1) words of which the type is *banisht*—a preterit *ed* changed to *i*; (2) words like *doctrin, docil, program, favorit, quartet, infinit, flexil*; (3) miscellaneous words, as *adz, ar, plow, wagon*; (4) terms in chemistry, as *fibrin, oxid, sulfur*; that is, improved spelling advocated by Assoc'n for Adv't of Science; (5) names of places and people, as recommended by Royal Geographic Soc'y and U.S. Board on Geographic Names, such as *Amur, Bering, Chile, Tibet, Tokyo, Sudan*.

THE CASE ADMITTED.

Admission that the spelling reformer has proved his case is now general—denial is rare. The latest admission comes from the *London Times*, conservative in everything else, therefore noteworthy. Towards the close of 1895 a controversy sprang up in its columns *re* sp'g ref'm. The editor summed up:—

"There have been many revolts against the tyranny of the rules of orthodox spelling, but seldom have rebels been so daring and sanguine as in the latest outbreak chronicled in correspondence in our columns. Advocates of change are not crotchety-mongers, or men of no literary authority. Advocates of individual liberty in spelling are not merely candidates in competitive examinations, still smarting from recollection of failure, but scholars and students of our language. Prof. Earle and Dr. Abbott join forces against the despotism of rigid official orthography. The present system is wasteful and unprofitable. It occupies youth at the most receptive time of life, to exclusion of matters much more important. Nobody is gainer by the rigor now in force. In truth we are not sure if the Professor be not right in his suggestive letter, that correct spelling is a positive evil, if not something to be ashamed of. A case, no doubt, has been made out for greater license than some examiners tolerate; and Civil Service Commissioners would do well to take note of points made by our correspondents. To 'pluk' a lad because he spells 'judgment' with two e's; to ignore the difference in practice of educated men in regard to scores of words [Webster's 4th Dictionary gives 1574 words spelled in two or more ways]; to be blind to modern movements in spelling which Canon Girdlestone has pointed out in our columns, is pedantry without the redeeming virtue of accuracy. Most people will be convinced by the controversy of the reasonableness of what may be called constitutional freedom in spelling. But one or two of our correspondents seem inclined to authorize a state of downright anarchy. Everyone will agree, 'Down with the purit-!'"

Mention of "anarchy" vs "constitutional freedom" refers to one or two who prefer to "spel as you please"—most miscellaneous doctrine. "Constitutional" or fixt