

# The Herald.

DEVOTED TO PRONUNCIATION AND AMENDED SPELLING.

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## THE BATL OF CHICAGO.

As announced (p. 50) "the congregation," a body governing Chicago university, met on 3d Jan. about introducing into all the university publications (several journals, calendars, etc.) these twelv spelings:

altho	demagog	prolog	thorofare
catalog	pedagog	tho	thru
decalog	program	thoro	thruout.

It took all afternoon to thrash it out thoroly. Prof. T. C. Chamberlain led, supported by Prof's Judson, Blackburn, Tolman, Terry. The oposition leader, Prof. Paul Shorey, was absent, but Prof's Hale, Abbot, Capps and R. F. Harper supplied, Hale insisting that efectiv reform requires alfabetic enlargement, others tho't such impracticabl (forgetting that j, u, w, ar fresh additions). Presnt spelling was shown to be "irregular, inconsistent, irrational" having "a sinister moral and intellectual effect on erly education." The vote was 20 for to 16 against the resolution that

"Adoption by the board of the University Pres for use in oficial publications of this university of the list of words with changed spelings adopted by the National Educ'nal Aso'n be approved."

The 16 wer of two clases: one oposes all change; the other favors radical scientific reform—objecting to having the (g)nat of Revized Speling oferd while redy to swallo the camel of New Speling. The latter clas is perhaps larger and seems likely to hav more influence when the question is setld. Prof. R. F. Harper (Semitic lang's) said:

"It wud be more sensibl to hav a system more fonetic for spelling all words. I spoke and voted against the motion not because I do not favor reform but because I disliked the way changes wer introduced. They go ahead unsientifically without plan [?]. They cater to sentiment by changing a few words at first, then gradually introducing more—disastros at last. Make sientific revision, laying all sentiment aside to accomplish reform."

Many radicals suport this. Some favor awaiting more genral demand for changed spelling, others wish to perfect a system for use now in university publications—a course puting Chicago university in the van, difrent from the one pursued by that

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of Padua in like case (see p. 50).

The literary faculty, strange to say, ar inactiv, indifrent. The strugl is between sience and clasics, the old fight between which crops in here and affects the problem. A professor said:

"Clasicists fear New Speling wil take away a strong argument for study of Latin and Greek, removing all [?] resemblance between English and Latin words. Sientists, acustomd to save time and mental labor at evry posibl turn, see a chance to shorten the road to noledge by cuting off square corners in spelling. Clasicists cling to old forms because they love them."

Prof. R. F. Moulton, Shakspearian scolar and literary critic, thus exprest the indifrence of the professors in his department:

"New Speling wud affect literature very litl. Words wud sound the same, and sound is of most importance in literature. Removing foren endings wud not mater much one way or other. We hav dropt some now. Many literary men of reputation who hav studid the question more than I tel me the change wud benefit our literature."

During January, it was tho't other universities wud folo suit, when (on 3d Feb.)

"A change came o'er the spirit of my dream." The university senat vetoed the congregation's action. *The Times-Herald* said

"By a close vote . . . the senat's decision . . . is final for a time. . . Chief arguments against change wer that the reform was of doubtful benefit because affecting so few words, not radical enuf. Sevrul educators objected to making the university a pioneer [shedding a halo of glory—they prefer to imitate Padua]. Pres't W. R. Harper, responsible for bringing the question up at first, was not calld on to vote. He is said to favor change but did not care to turn advocat."

Manifestly, the rising tide of shorter and beter spelling sets in two directions: (1) Old Speling revized, (2) Sientific (or New) Speling. The senat's act is granny sweeping bak the tide with her broom! It is unlike Chicago to be swept bak. A thwart but spurs and nervs to action.

## NEWS-NOTES AND COMENTS.

—Our thanks ar due kind frends (Kimball, Coleman, Marriot) who kept us posted during the batl of Chicago by acting as war correspondents, sending prom(p)t dispatches.

—*The Toronto World*, a bright, newsy, crisp, morning daily newspaper in its twenty-first year, has long been a favorit as a succinct news-epitome and (with us) because of izing such comendabl wordforms as honor, program, plow, ax, wagon, etiquet, mold. On 16th Jan., it began use of the N. E. A.'s twelv words and keeps it up thruout (that is, advertizements and all). The riter met its editor, W. F. McLean, M. P., in the