

PROGRES IN DIALECT WORK.

In Britan sevrul interesting volumes hav appear'd, publisht by The Dialect Society. *The English Dialect Dictionary* is the most important, edited by Joseph Wright, M.A., Ph. D., deputy profeser of comparativ filology at Oxford. Three parts ar publisht, completing words in A, B, and C as far as *caddl*. Part four is due in January. Two parts ar publisht yearly, costing about \$5 on comon paper. It is to be finisht in sevn years from now, and so wil cost unbound about \$40. Of its scope a "Prefatory Note" tels us:—

"The Dictionary wil include, so far as is possibl, the complete vocabulary of all English Dialect words stil in use or non to hav been in use with-in 200 years in England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales. It wil include American and Colonial dialect words stil in use in Britan and Ireland or found in erly printed dialect books and glosaris."

It givs the cream of the hundred or so of pamphlets, books and glosaris publisht by the Society during a generation, and wil be of great service for reference in settling details—fundamental principls ar already fairly wel settld—of a new set of word-forms, a true Orthograpy.

The American Dialect Society, whose advent we anounced (HERALD, vol. i, p. 181), has publisht nine parts of *Dialect Notes*, now indext to complete vol. i. It has myriad notes on vocabulary and pronunciation, sampls of colloquial speech in difrent states, interesting and important papers, and a ful acount of the "Ithaca Dialect" by Prof. Emerson, Cleveland, O., made when profeser at Cornell University at Ithaca, N. Y. Tho a study of speech at Ithaca, it is practicaly that of New York State with its three milions of population (not New York City with another three milions who hav difrent speech). In the settlment of the north and west the state of New York was a gateway thru which pour'd floods of a population from the east to the Great Lake region especially, stoping long enuf in most cases to aquire vocabulary, modify dialectic peculiaritis and fuse all into a resultant comparativly homogeneos. In this wider sens, Emerson's work is of great value. We can bear testimony to its acuracy as to Ontario, Illinois and Michigan. It is suplemnted by a paper by B. S. Monroe, who in June of last year took for his graduation thesis at Cornell a study of the "Pronunciation of English in New York State" basing it on the speech of 141 felo-students from all parts of the state, mostly nativs and all resident therin from erly years. His results ar interesting, ofn surprising in their variation from "dictionary" speech, as when for *askt* 71 said æskt, 67 said æst, 2 said ast, 1 said askt; or, 138 uze æ, 3 uze a.

ANOTHER ADVOCAT.

With improvement of word-forms ther is going on a movement for a simplified system of weights and mesures, while a change in basis of our numeration from ten to eight, twelv or sixteen is urged. *A Journal of Communication*, (quarterly, R. M. Pierce, 320 E. 14th St., New York, \$1 a year,) of which the fourth number, dated May last, is receivd, furnishes a mouth-piece for workers on these lines, being "devoted to linguistic, metric, and numeric progres." Of editer Pierce we ar told that he was born in 1869 at Andover, Mass. He studid at Harvard, 1892 to 1894, later in 1894 at Würzburg, now a student at the University of Pennsylvania and revizer on a new edition of Worcester's Dictionary.

The editer favors cosmopolitan vowel-values, for he says:—

"tho some wud retain values for the signs of the vowels difering from those values so familiar in the languages in which the Roman letters ar or hav been uzed, but not as familiar to speakers of English, ther is reason to believ, as indeed all or nearly all living filologists . . . believ that continental, or Latin, vowel values shud be adopted in a plan of reform for English which seeks to attain its end in the most satisfactory maner. These values ar quite familiar, even now, to English-speaking persons, and wud be more so, wer it not for lak of noledge of the relations of short and long vowels. Children wud find the Latin values easy, and English-learnin races wud, I think, find them convenient."

The *Journal* uzes a spelling revized to a les extent than the HERALD but along like lines. Sampls of proposed Orthograpy ar givn. One such is these lines from Matthew Arnold's *Self-dependence*:—

"Weary of myself, and sick of asking
What I am, and what I ought to be,
At this vessel's prow I stand, which bears me
Forwards, forwards, o'er the starlit sea.

which is renderd thus:—

ui: 'ri əv maise 'lf, and sik əv a 'skiŋ
huət ai am, and huət ai ɔ:t tu bi;
at ðis ve'selz prəu ai stand, huite barz mi:
fə'ruardz, fə'ruardz, o:r ði starlit si:

Avowedly, in this trial flight, "ar many points of doubtful advizability." So, we forbear criticism, tho much cud be said. We urge that evry point be considerd wel; then leav the result to season a while before presentation for criticism. Ther ar excelent points about this sampl.

SPECIMEN.—Page four givs that remarkable scene at the fall of Richmond. It is a theme worthy a great poet and a great painter, but, as yet, untucht by either. In our "trial corner" it servs to illustrate two points: first, that "a" may be uzed for either æ or a—which being determind, in nearly evry case, by its relation to sounds that folo immediatly; second, use of ɹ for difthongal i.