

The Herald.

DEVOTED TO PRONUNCIATION AND AMENDED SPELLING.

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ACHIEVEMENT OF NEW SPELLING.

Spelling reform o't to be easy. Almost evrybody giving the subject attention admits the presnt system absurdly and ingeniously bad, necessitating enormos work, needles and profitles, first in lerning, then in practising it. When it comes to defining the extent and rate of change desired, and exactly the alterations to be made, difrences of opiniou become manifest, relating to details not principls, therefore of no great consequence. When, however, efforts ar made to practis any improvement, much oposition, some activ, some pasiv, is developt. Its les judicios oponents make a fetish of familiar forms of printed and ritn words, and, as in Masachusets Legislature recently, talk nonsens about uglines of fonetic combinations and cruel hardships imposed on filologists by establishment of closer relations between leter and sound. Tho't of puting "fotograf" for *photograph* moved a Bay State lawmaker almost to tears, and, to believ him, if "fotograf" came into use, the origin of the word wud be lost forever. "Fotograf" comes nearer to the original Greek than does "photograph"—the same for the rest. Latin and Greek spelling was probably strictly fonetic. If wud-be reformers wud only asume that success depends on united action they might accomplish something. The proclamation of a State Legislature, if secured, wud be ineffectual. English-speaking nations must move together. When they once determin to advance, any haf dozen filologists can point out a strait road.—*New York Times*.

PRINTERS, AWAKE!

I am of opinion that the time has come when we must meet inovation in spelling. Scholars hav agreed on 3572 new spellings givn in Webster's International, Century and Standard dict's, many of them adoptd by these great lexicons. Webster of today varies in numeros spellings from the Unabridgd that many of us wer "bro't up on." The other dict's named go farther; accepted and aproved spelling has altered much in 25 years. Scholars—educaters—peopl who make dict's, stamp approval on

words, endeavor to make greater changes.

Which is wiser, to wait til scolars force on us a system—or two or three systems—compeling us to "lern to spel" again, or, by taking hold of the movement, so guide and direct it that it shal cost us least in time, labor and money? The world's scholarship is almost a unit in favor of change. Shal printerdom's comon sens step in and help the movement in right directions?

I can asure my felo-craftsmen that spelling-reform—mending our grosly misleading, unhistorical and defectiv orthografy—forges ahed, soon shal we meet it armed with new strength.—HENRY R. BOSS in *New York American Printer*.

NEWS-NOTES AND COMENTS.

—This invites *you* to subscribe.

—Rime by F. Ritchie in *Longman's* for December is of great interest. He says "rime is corect spelling" and "rhyme, due to false etymology with the Greek word rhythm, is quite modern." Again, "Comparativ acuracy in rime of a dozen wel-known poets is ruffly indicated in this table, figures shoing imperfect rime: in 1000 lines at random, corectnes of rime being judged by modern standard pronunciation, except where notoriously pronunciation has been changed:

| | | |
|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| Shakspear 55 | Scott 36 | Campbell 28 |
| Dryden 47 | Wordsworth 36 | Moore 28 |
| Pope 38 | Tennyson 32 | Keats 20 |
| Cowper 36 | Byron 28 | Goldsmith 11 |

Ritchie concludes that "similarity of spelling is ofn accepted as covering want of any real identity in vowel sounds. In a few words having alternativ spellings Dryden naivly employs what afords best rime to the eye, thus

Which well the noblest objects knew to chuse,
The fighting warrior and recording Muse;"

R. then quotes a couplet with (choose depose) and instances (show go) and (shewed conclude). Examining 2800 lines (couplets?) by Pope, who, he says, "comits the atrocity of cupling 'clothes with 'those,'" he finds 97 imperfect rimes, analysis shoing "(1) Imperfect rimes very rarely ocur between words ending in a vowel sound—but 4 out of 97, and 3 of them almost certnly explaind by changes in pronunciation since Pope's time. Identity in final consonants is therfore evidently regarded as justification for a certn amount of disparity in the vowel preceding. (2) Over one-fifth of imperfect rimes ar in words with a vowel folod by r. (3) Imperfect rimes ocur (with few exceptions) only between sounds that, tho not identical, ar fonetic alies." Ritchie's standard sounds ar 16, viz., 6 primary (so-cald long) vowels, those in beet, bate, balm, bawl, boat, boot; 6 secondary (so-cald short), bit, bet, bat, botch, but, book; 4 difthongs, file, foil, foul, few. His elevn pages sho earnest reserch.