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 Adres THE HERALD, 125 Harbord St., Toronto, Canada.

BENGOF.—Mr. Thomas Bengough rites from Toronto to *Notes and Queries* (Manchester, N. H.): "Can any reader help me to the derivation of my name? I am a sp. reformer, and fonetic journals urge that I shud spel the name Bengof. This I decline to do til I no more certainly that gof wud indicate correctly the pronunciation of the last sylabl. Ar not all the leters needed—that is, is not the sound the Scotch gutural, and ar not therfore all the leters ough required to record the awkward sound? Is the origin of the name Scotch, Welsh or Irish?" Elsewhere we quote Mikljon (Meiklejohn) to sho that the gutural has been dropt from refusal to pronounce it. The pronunciation having changed, the spelung shud folo suit and not lag centuris behind, stil indicating to the eye the gost of a gutural long since ded to the ear, and which shud hav been interd decently long ago. If ough has changed to f in sound, put it f; if ough is silent, then stop at o. Bengo appears a les comon pronunciation than Bengof. Which is right we don't determin. The beuty of the Two Rules * we spel by is here-in aparent as talying with the highest filogy.

* REVISED SPELING: 1. OMIT evry useles letter. 2. CHANGE *d* to *t*, *ph* to *f*, *gh* to *f* if sounded so.

DOUGLAS.—With Mr. Douglass ther is another "lion in the way": *The law does not permit it.* This is a misconception. The law folos the intention Hence a misspeld letter is just as good evidence as one speld in orthodox fashn. It is the *mater*, not the *manner*, of the communication that counts. Rites on ethics lay down the rule: "The quality of an act resides in the intention." Punctuation is not legaly necessary in legal documents, and is seldm taken into account. We hav non good lawyers who hav as poor a noledg of punctuation as a scool-boy. Excuse: practising law does not require it. Tru, the meaning of legal frases may turn on a punctuation mark; stil they shud be worded so carefully that the meaning is plain without that. But we hav a case in point: Prof. Crow, before adoptng Kro as the spelung of his name, "had submitted the *mater* to one of the Massachusetts judges to investigate thoroly the law upon the point. The judge gave a ritn opinion that the law alowd a change of spelung which was evidently intended to represent the same pronunciation. If the change wer to another name, it wud be counted as an efort to disguise identity."

—"No w in French!" said Snooks: "Then, I'd like to no how them chaps spel *wagon*?"

LITERATURE.

ELEMANS D'ANGLAIS PARLÉ, ETC. (Elements of Spoken Eng., by Paul Passy; 2d edit.; Firmin-Didot, 56 Rue Jacob, Paris, 1887; boards, p. 96; 24-mo; price, 1 franc.)

This is an exposition of our speech for French lerners. Part First givs an outline of elementary sounds from anatomico-fysiologic basis, the only basis deservng consideration. His statements ar correct in the main. He is not content with the division of consonants into palatal, lingual and labial, but givs 3 or 4 subdivisions to each clas. Thruout, ther is an undercurrent of comparison with corresponding sounds in French. This makes it valuabl and interesting.

As to signs, we congratulate our author on his good shape, for *th* in *thin*, for which Greek *theta* is used. It is quite a suces. For *th* in *then*, the crosst *d* of Anglo-Saxon is restored, stil in use in Icelandic, and which appears regularly in a weekly newspaper (Winnipeg *Leifur*) in "this Canada of ours." It is the organ of Icelandic settlement in Manitoba. Thruout this publication separat s^{ns} for the two *ths* appear. While they lasted til 15th century in Eng. they stil flourish in 19th in Manitoba. In Passy's book, insted of having A B C D..... as capitals for a b c d..... we find **abcd**..... an inovation which it may or may not be wise to include in Amendment of Sp. The hole work is in a degree of Am. French Sp. of just about what corresponds to amount of changes made by our Two Rules.

The Second Part consists of easy selections of words, in sentences givn in an orthoepy altogether too colloquial. Distinct orthoepy is beter. In America, we stik to the dictionary, and therby ar more uniform than our European frends, who get into the colloquial plane. The Eng. S. R. A. says: (*Fourth Annual Report*)

"The test consisted of two parts. The first was a passage from a Fourth Reader which was ritn out twice in each system, once in the orthoepy adopted by Mr. Pitman, and once in that of Mr. Ellis. The second part consisted of a list of words presenting varius difficultis of spelung, and each scheme was aplyed to represent these words in a uniform orthoepy, which was *practical, that of an ordinary pronouncing dictionary.*"

Our author givs a Pitman-Sweet orthoepy with suposed improvments of his own. It is beter to stik to the dictionary, which is comparatively fixt, rather than try to swim in the trubld waters of Ellis-Pitman-Sweet (London)-Passy colloquialism.

The Third Part givs irregularitis in formation of plurals, pronouns, verbs, etc. This is done under the questionabl title, "Elements of Gramar." Our language has become so nearly completely uninflected, as to bear out the statement of its being "the Gramarles tung" as the late Richard Grant White has calld it.