

The Herald.

DEVOTED TO PRONUNCIATION AND AMENDED SPELLING.

VOL. II, 21.

TORONTO, CANADA, January, 1902.

N.^R 71.

NEWS-NOTES AND COMMENTS.

—A memorial of Sir Isaac Pitman, a mural tablet, was unveiled recently at Bath. The occasion received notice by the London and provincial press. The Bath Chronicle said: "No difficulty danted this brave, devoted Inventor-Missionary, with step activ as a bird's wing, mind boyant and lambent as air. Wherever he went, and he went nearly evrywhere, he told his Mesage. . . . With amazing zeal, energy, faith, enthusiasm self-sacrifice, ther was no reason why he shud giv up days and nights to this work, but he was fild with his Idea, and saw in it vast power for the benefit and progres of his kind."

HERE LIVED So reads the tablet men-
SIR ISAAC PITMAN tioned above, put upon
B. 1813 D. 1897 the hous, 17 Royal Cres-
cent, Bath, Eng., wherin Pitman past his latter
years. He was a citizen of Bath continuously from
1839, and it was put by the city corporation, the
first so placed in onor of a presnt day worthy.
It was unveiled by A. W. a Beckett, pres't of In-
stitute of J(ournalists, of which Sir Isaac was an
erly member. Besides, his shorthand is al-
most indispensable to jurnalism. Afterward, lun-
chon was servd on the lawn, with a son, Alfred
Pitman, as chairman, to a distinguisht company
among whom wer Lady Pitman, another son (Er-
nest), the mayor, aldermen and councilers of
Bath, town clerk Watt, Hall Caine, a Beckett
(asistant ed.tor of Punch), and many notabls.

—This paragraf from *The Toronto World*
was copid and provoked coment among British-
ers: "In England, the feature that strikes the col-
onial pres is the mother cuntry's bakwardnes to
move in any progressiv direction, especially one
that wud promote the empire's trade and com-
erce by improved speling and decimalization of
weights, mesures and coinage. Reformd speling
wud go far toard making the language the vehicl
of all the world's comerce."

—The London (Eng.) *Daily Chronicle*
as well as The Star and The Morning Leader now
hav these spelings: program, favor, labor, honor,
etc. It seems as tho the world does move when
three daily newspapers in its conservativ center
take Prof. Brander Matthews' advice on page 81,
"Start, but go slo"

—"Wake up, John Bull!" is a series of
articles in the Review of Reviews. John (a later
Rip Van Winkle) shows signs of waking when
daily papers in his metropolis adopt Websterian
spelings and other Americ n methods. He rubs
his sleepy eyes now. Wil they not be wide open
when he finds how far behind in the race he has
slipt while he slept hypnotized into a state of
self-satisfaction by trecherous flatery? An Eng-
lish leter just to hand says: "Keep on stiring us
up. It wil take all the proding yu can giv to get
us into a canter."

—"A Plea for Simplifying the English
Language" is an artiel of three pages in Harper's
Monthly for July last by the author of Ayres'
Orthoepist. He is a purist, begining by saying
French in Paris and German in Berlin ar spoken

with greater acuracy as to gramar and orthoepy
than is English anywhere, in which censurabl
slovenlines is too prevalent. From much els,
we quote three points: (1) A sound always made
by educated Englishmen and herd only to a lim-
ited extent in American speech, is e in person,
i in girl, o in word, u in murder, y in myrtle [not
e in person, gerl, wørd, mœrdœr, mœrtl, comonly
herd]. Before fifteen years ago the sound was
seldom herd from lips of American acters. Now
ther ar very few that do not make it properly.
It is very important in refined uzage. (2) A com-
on eror is giving s in version, excursion, Asia, Per-
sia, etc., its z sound, for which ther is no diction-
ary authority. (3) A most comon sin against
good uzage is mangling final vowels. Even in
some prominent players ment is mœnt, sent is
sœnt, less les, ed œd, and the like. Such pronun-
ciations as perœl, intœrœm, chapœl, Latœn, Helœn,
ar comon.

—Slurd ə (strictly, °), the weak neutral
vowel, if too much in use in the United States, as
Ayres complains, is still more frequent in British
speech, where about evry vowel outside of strong
sybls is slurd. In U. S. ther is a large propor-
tion of medium-strest vowels (or, betœr, medium
strest sybls, denoted in HERALD-notation by a
hyfen after the sybl, while weak sybls hav a
period thereafter). Grandgent says (p. 2 of Ger. &
Eng. Sounds, Boston, 1892): "Haf-accented sybls
ar much more numeros in America than in
the mother-cuntry: difcult, e. g., is in England
difc'lt, while with us u has its ful value. The dif-
ference is especially noticeabl in words accented
on fourth sybl from end: compare American
solitary [sol'i.tœ-ri] and Eng.sol'i.tœ.ri or sol'i.t.ri.
This development of secondary accent is, I sup-
pose, part of a tendency (much stronger in Amer-
ica than in England) to pronounce words as they
ar speld."

—Canadian speech, as compared with
that of the United States, has slurd vowels in
greater frequency. Thus, towel and Martin ar
words herd here comonly as tau œl. and martœn
or martœn. In the United States they wud be
likely to be herd with distinct vowels in the
final sybls (tau'œl. and martin.)

—An acute observer, Prof. Skeat, says:
"The best method of denoting o in 'come' is th^o
real crux in evry system proposed." The vowe-
in question is not universal—at any rate it is not
comon as a principal vowel. Thus it belongs not
to German, Italian or Spanish. Something like
it, not identical, is herd in French. Germans
employ the weak neutral much as we do, as do
other nations; but a weak neutral and a princi-
pal vowel ar difrent. Where ther ar great ups
and downs in stres, weak sybls ar thik, especi-
ally in colouqy. Weak neutrals ar tabood in Or-
thograpy, a set of fixt word-forms, tho more or
les requisit in Orthoepy, a fluctuater.

—See, they come appears a betœr test for
any scheme, judged by the light of our experi-
ence. An accepted notation for the vowels in
these three words wud solv the problem of New
Speling virtually, ading three diferentials to the
alfabet, discarding q and x.