

The Herald.

DEVOTED TO PRONUNCIATION AND AMENDED SPELLING.

VOL. II, 1.

TORONTO, CANADA, Jan., 1897.

N^o. 51.

GREETING.

THE HERALD appeared as a four page monthly for 5 years ending Dec. 1889. Its 50 issues, 200 pages, compose Vol. I. Its publication is now resumed quarterly, beginning Vol. II. It may appear monthly should sufficient encouragement offer and time permit.

In the 7 years of its suspension there has been activity and consequent development or growth in recording facts of vocal physiology. It is thought that its pages should more fully report and reflect this than has ever been attempted by any journal advocating Amended Spelling.

That all this and more is necessary has been well said by Dr Sweet:—

"We may distinguish two stages in dealing with the problem of sound-notation. The first is to recognize fully its importance—to recognize that the problem of writing sounds is fully as important as analyzing them. The second is to recognize its difficulties, and at the same time to recognize that these difficulties can be grappled with only by scientific methods. It is in this way only that we can hope for a satisfactory result. The history of the English Spelling Reform Association is decisive on this point. When we began deliberations there was general belief that reform was really very simple—all that was needed was a little common sense. When, however, common sense had gone on for years, hatching one scheme after the other, it became necessary to try something else. We then began to see that accurate knowledge of the facts of pronunciation would be a help in settling spelling."

There has now been a full half century of attempts at reforming the spelling of our language, nearly every attempt possessing more or less merit. The riter has been aware personally of the different schemes as they were promulgated during 40 years. His recollection will be of use in a choice or eclectic Orthography. The time has now come for comparing plans. Critical examination will reveal what principles underlie. It is believed that foundation can be laid for a true Orthography worthy the name of being called right, straight (Greek, *orthos*) or regular, *i. e.*, according to rule or law. Such word-forms should be selected as find more general acceptance and on which we may unite to begin the century

4 years hence, in Jan. 1901—a time quite short, yet enough for a band of earnest workers to do much.

The need of building on established principles will be kept in view always. The words of Dr Latham, published so long ago as 1849, express this; so we quote it as deserving entire approbation:—

"No condition is more necessary for the success of a projected system of orthography than that it should be as much as possible a necessary deduction from fixed principles, and as little as possible a matter of arbitrary invention. Now, the arbitrary elements of a reformed orthography should be as few as possible; since, as long as they are arbitrary, they will vary with the peculiar views of the innovator—and as one innovator will rarely give up his own details for those of another, there is no means of insuring uniformity except by laying down preliminary common principles, and admitting some common principle of reasoning upon them."

It will mirror advance in 4 directions:—

1, Amended Spelling, using word-forms like these now meeting the reader's eye—partial rectification of current spelling by, *a*, OMISSIONS, and, *b*, some CHANGES, so far as likely to be accepted by the public.

2, Developing the word-forms of a true Orthography. As Prof. Max Müller says: "Express broad and typical pronunciation by appropriate symbols and then direct learners to *spell by the book*."

3, Orthoepy, or Pronunciation, discussed, exemplified and elucidated in dialectic as well as standard aspects. This is Applied or Special Phonetics—applied to our own and other languages, living or dead.

4, Pure or General Phonetics, treating of the phenomena of vocal physiology, but rather of the Speaking than of the Singing Voice.

These four divisions do not conflict but can be lucidly interwoven.

The difficulties and expenses of notation are considerable. It is thought that these can be overcome by the comparatively simple notation used by the riter.

In accepting generally the orthoepy of the dictionary it must not be forgotten that the last few years has been productive of great advances in lexicography. To Webster and