

THE CANADIAN PHONETIC PIONEER,

A Monthly Journal, Devoted to the Spread of the Writing, Printing, and Spelling Reform.

William H. Orr,

["Had this art (Phonography) been known forty years ago, it would have saved me twenty years hard labor."—Hon. Tho's H. Estlin.]

Publisher.

VOLUME II.

OSHAWA, C. W., SEPTEMBER, 1859.

NUMBER III.

HOZ PREZEZ.—It haz not bekum neseari for us tu publiſ de namz ov de suksesful kom-petitorz for de prizez mensond in sr Jon and Ogust numberz, for de simplg rezon dat dar qr nun. Stranj az it semz, not a sigl atemt at kompetifon woz ma'd bi eniboli, so sgr az de rezults aper.

GRAHAM'S HAND-BOOK.—"Graham's Hand-Book ov Standard Fonografi" taks wel. Everibodi semz tu lyk it for sum fetur or an-uder, and it iz rapidli kumig intu us az de standarl for bot de Korespondip and Reportip Stijlz. Durin de past eleven montz we hav sold widin a sq kopiz ov 100, and de demand iz konstantliou de inkres. We hav bin resev-ig orderz at de rat ov wun per da for sum tijn past, hwig wil dstles bekum dubld az mid-winter and de holidaz aproq, so dat mor tijn ma be fsnd for studi. Notwidstandip sr stand-dip ofer tu refund de muni tu eni person ho ma be disatisfid wid de buk and ho returnz it widin tw weks unsold, not a siggl kopiz haz yet bin resevd.

MARID.—Last munt we had de plezur ov rekordip de marij ov de wurdj Vjs President ov de Britij Amerikan Fonetik Asosinjon.—On de prezent okazon it also bekumz sr plez-ig durti tu perform a lyk ofis for sr estimabl friend Mr Weber, de efisent Sekretari ov de sam Asosinjon:

In Toronto, on Turzda de 8d inst., bi de Rev. Jon Borland, Ogustus, yungest sun ov Henri (Webber) Eskwjr, proprijetor ov de 'Kardif and Westbi Garjian' nuzpaper; (Cardiff) Ing-land—tu Eljza, eldest doter ov Edmund Morfi, Eskwjr, Richmond stret, Toronto.

At de resent Nafonal Tegez' Asosinjon Konvensjon, hwig met at Wofington, U. S., on de 10d ov Ogust last, wun hundred and fifti tegez and odykatorz, ov varius grada wer prezent. De subjekt ov teqip gildren tu red de Roman print bi menz ov de Fonetik alfabet, woz brot up and woz wel resevd. A komitti ov fire woz afonted tu report upon it at de nekst meting ov de Asosinjon.

Reading, Writing, and Spelling Reform.

From "Young Ideas."

Are you aware of the existence of a Reading, Writing and Spelling Reform?—This question will not be considered impertinent, since it is a fact that one-half of the world knows not what the other half does. There are so many objects engrossing the attention of the world, that it is no great wonder if you have never so much as heard of the steady-going, unobtrusive Spelling-Reform, though it is now some nineteen years old. It is by degrees—we may now say rapidly—becoming more generally known, appreciated, and adopted; and, having worked its own way by means of its own merits into public estimation, we have no doubt that it will keep its footing. Firmly believing it to be *truth*, and also firmly believing that truth must *conquer*, we prophesy a triumphant future for the Spelling Reform, and great and lasting good as the result of it.

But you may have heard of the Reform, and not have had it properly explained to you. In what does it consist? In the adoption of a *sound* principle of representing words. The theory is simplicity itself. I wish to convey some ideas to my friend in the far distance; how shall I accomplish it? Not like the Egyptians, by means of picture-writing, or by the use of hieroglyphics; nor by a system of ideagraphy, as the Chinese would. How then? If I could talk *viva voce*. If I could send some living messenger charged with my mind, the thing might be done without further difficulty—only there would be the chance of a mistake on the part of the messenger. But independently of the risk of a mistake, this plan is, in ninety-nine cases out of every hundred, impracticable. Cannot I *talk to him in a note*, and send it by the post? Of course

I can; we have an alphabet, every letter of which represents a sound, and all I have to do is to arrange these letters so that they shall represent the sounds I wish my friend to hear, and in their proper order, and it is evident he will then know my ideas as well as if I had conveyed them to his ear in living words. And this will be making a legitimate use of our alphabet, if it is to be used for the purpose for which alphabets were made, for "all original alphabets are essentially phonetic." Now, this is the *sound* principle of the Spelling Reform,—that to write and print according to sound, is better than any other system of conveying ideas to whom the voice cannot reach; but this cannot be done properly by the twenty-six letters of the Roman alphabet, since there are at least thirty-four simple, distinct sounds in our language, and by right every sound should have a sign exclusively to itself. This inefficiency has led to inconsistency and confusion in the use of those twenty-six letters we have, for each one represents, on an average, four-and-a-half different sounds, and we have no definite rules whereby to decide, in any given case, which of these sounds to fix upon. Hence, then, the need of a reform, appropriating to each single sound a single sign, and requiring each sign to represent only its appropriate sound. This is accomplished by the Spelling Reform.

There is no doubt that the ignorance of our land is in no small degree attributable to the extreme difficulty and irrationality of our present orthography. The latter is "an exceeding high mountain," up whose rugged heights our juvenile population have to climb with tears and wailing, and amongst the brambles and briars of whose thorny sides many fall in despair. By it millions are stopped at the very threshold of education, not being able to master the necessary elementary art of reading; and additional millions are unable to write it correctly. Even amongst those who have learned to read, there are very many who cannot spell properly, z. e., according to the accepted way. And this is because the accepted orthography is really not proper, not what it should be. The partially educated people often,