

# The Herald.

DEVOTED TO PRONUNCIATION AND AMENDED SPELING.

4<sup>TH</sup> YEAR.

TORONTO, CANADA, May, 1888.

N<sup>R</sup>. 34

Why two *ts* in *ditty*, one in *city*?

M<sup>r</sup> L. Lyon writes from Conneaut, O.: "The only way to mend sp. is to keep at work. It will take several years to establish an alfabet."

It is much to be regreted that *d* was allowed to fall out of use. The sound is not at all a compound of those of *t* and *h*, by uniting which we indicate it. It is a perfectly simpl sound as much so as *s*; and it wud be wel if filologists undertaking to simplify sp. wud advocate restoring *d*. . . *Ther* wud be no difficulty, or very litt, in bringing it gradually into vog. *R. G. White.*

*W.* -Before the Conquest *W* was litt used. Where Anglo-Saxon printed books hav it, manuscripts hav the old Rune *p*. After the Conquest, when many Romance words begining with *V* wer coming in, a distinction had to be made between this sound and that of old *p*, the later was represented by dubl *v*. It must carefully be observed that novelty as to *W* was in the character, not in sound. The sound *v* was ancient, and on it an interesting question rises:—Whether this sound, now a chief characteristic of our language amid its family, was contracted in this land by mingling of Saxons with British Kelts, or is relic of a once pangothic sound, which has faded evrywhere els, alike in Teuton and Scandinavian worlds.—*Earle's Philol.* The last statement needs qualification: *v* is comon in curent German orthograpy, but is invariably pronounced *v* in "the best" German—ther is no sound *w*. In some districts, however, where pronunciation is considerd more or les dialectic, *w* is sounded, not *v*, but as we do. What is the conection between these districts and Britan in linguistic history (paralel to ethnology) has yet to be elucidated.

## NEW SUBSCRIBERS.

M<sup>r</sup> Curzon, Toronto (got by *Hamilton*).  
Prof. Ewing, Notre Dame, Indiana, (got by *Cosmopolitan Shorthander*).  
Kansas Historic Society, Topeka, Kan., (paid by M<sup>r</sup> *Knudsen*, Jan. '85 to Dec. '99.)  
Three aded to club, Toronto, (*Roberts*.)

## "AMENDED SPELIN."

(From *Canadian Silent Observer*, Toronto.)

We hav received *The Herald*, publishd in Toronto, "devoted to pronunciation and amended spelin." The editor thinks the reforms in orthograpy that he advocates in his litt paper ar calculated to benefit mankind, especially def-mutes. [We hav put it "speling" never "spelin." We hav never said anything about special adaptability to the def-dum. Why misrepresent so?] He concludes, from some source of information, that the system of instruction adopted in the Ontario Institution is defectiv in one particular, and that the education of the def in Canada needs his help to become respectabl. [Great Caesar!] It is quite evident that he has a very imperfect nledge of def-mute instruction, and imagins that "lip-reading" constitutes the basis of proceeding. [Yu "imagin."] The "combined system," which prevails in nearly all scools for the def on this continent, is favord in the Ontario Institution. It consists of the oral, manual and sign language. . . Few def-mutes can be successfullly taut the purely oral method. In the Ont. Institu'n, out of 240, not over 40 ar capabl, and ar under an experienced and traind teacher. The rest find the manual alfabet and sign language more suitabl and make good progres. We admit that English contains irregular orthograpy, but the *Herald's* reforms ar not likely to find favor with the public. They ar too radical. Def-mutes especially no very litt about "a fotograf of sounds" as the eye is the principal medium of instruc'n. If compeld to choose between the *Herald's* "complete alfabet" [ther is no such thing] and Volapük, another kind of speling reform [Is it? We tho't it the new world-speech.] we wud take the later—for brevity, anyway: "They wil hav been loved" in Volapük is "pulöfus." Only that, and nothing more. [This sentence has no verb!] Can the *Herald* beat that? [No, go foot: take yur "spelin" with yu!]

—Why two *ds* in *ruddy*, one in *study*?

—*W. M.*, givn some accounts to collect, returned one markt "*doughtful*!" (fact.)