

The Herald.

DEVOTED TO PRONUNCIATION AND AMENDED SPELLING.

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WITH DR MURRAY'S APPROVAL.

Dr Murray's address on spelling reform in 1881 as president of the Philologic Society asked it to draw up a list of amended forms. This was done in 1883, British and American Societies co-operating. The result appears in the *Century* and *Standard* dictionaries. His address deserves attention by both advocates and opponents of reform, as it shows what prudence can accomplish for truthful spelling. Opponents will find

HIS ARGUMENTS IRRESISTIBLE.

Take omission of final e in *hav*, *giv*, *liv*. Previous to 1630 v represented u, and final ue stood for v. When v was chosen as a consonant, and u as vowel, this final e became needless.* It should be dropped, unless it influences a preceding vowel. In *hav*, *giv*, *liv*, a and i are short; e affects them not—omission is on good grounds and authority. Mr Gladstone considered it essential to enlist high authority for any reform of our spelling. Dr Murray's standing is unquestioned. All, not slaves to fashion, should follow his recommendation and write *hav*, *giv*, *leav*, *liv*, *griev*, *conceiv*, *groov*, etc.

Again, Dr Murray enforces this point:

PHONETIC SPELLING IS TRUTHFUL.

Hav we realized this? Sir Isaac Pitman, fond of the term, felt its force and gave shape to his feelings. No one, not even a liar, likes to be called untruthful. The charge strikes home like a sword. Why not so in orthography? Lord Lytton leveled a strong thrust at it by calling it "a lying, roundabout, puzzle-headed delusion." That was strong, but not war, for he adopted no more truthful method. Had Lytton preferred this charge against one, and still retained friendship with the liar, his diatribe would have been measured at its worth. Ar

*The old rule that no word in the language ends in v is due to the time before 1630, when silent e was needed after u (as in *have* for *hav*, *give* for *giv*, etc.) to prevent u functioning like a vowel when its consonant power (v) was meant—a clumsy expedient, yet not more so than most. A generation ago occurred the first break in the rule forbidding final v in the word *Slave*, plural *Slaves*, which at first came into use as *Slave*, *Slaves*, in obedience to the rule. *Slave* conflicted with *slave*. The stupid rule, outgrown over two centuries, was broken. *Slave* prevails. In French, *Slave* yet prevails because not conflicting with *esclave*, their word for *slave*.—EDITOR.

sp. reformers to be so measured, willing to wound, but afraid to strike out untruthful spellings? They cannot deny that they have ample opportunities. Fonotypists aim high, though their ideal is yet unattainable. Their heights cannot be reached by sudden flight; to show the way and serve as school furniture is all we dare to ask for fonotypy. Meanwhile, segments of truth must be forged till the world accepts the circle. Think of absurd combinations printers continue to set up and children are required to learn till that happy time arrives! Some foolishly

IMAGINE ETYMOLOGY THUS UPHOLD.

Dr Murray says "I need hardly add that my Dictionary experience shows me that ordinary appeals to etymology against spelling reform utterly break down on examination." If our orthography causes bad spelling and its consequent bad pronunciation, waste of time, labor and money, and is not etymological, it should be reformed in truth.

Hetton-le-Hole, Eng.

H. DRUMMOND.

NEWS-NOTES AND COMMENTS.

—English was spoken considerably in Vienna twenty-five years ago, especially at court, though French was more common, while German prevailed. Recently a committee of the Reichstag appointed to consider the teaching of French in Austrian secondary schools, adopted a recommendation by Prince Liechtenstein that English be substituted for French, because French was but the language of drawing-rooms, while English was that of literature and commerce, and far richer and more practical.

—Improved methods to teach reading are yet needed. A plucky veteran, Mr C. R. Needham, of 55 Pockock st., Blackfriars road, London, Eng., finds none better than his method, most successful and highly commended forty years ago. He wishes to reprint his plan as the "Readwell Primer," and says "The method does not displace any schoolbook; it explains how to use them. I appeal to friends of Education for donations to print an ample exposition. To do so, well and soon, I ask liberal contributions, glad if donors bring it before friends, or send addresses." Activity for many years back was prevented by his late wife's total blindness.

—"Our Unhappy Language," an anonymous article in Macmillan's Magazine for June, deprecates American departures from British usage as to words, phrases and grammar, but not of spelling till toward the close is: "Here is a list of American words [sic—he means spellings] on which our only comment shall be a note of exclamation: defense, pretense, rumor, dishonor, labor, counselor, traveler, imperiled, groveled, marveled, un-