

G. B. Hunter, Esq., of Swan and Hunter, ship-builders, Newcastle-on-Tyne. Mr H. visited America last winter in connexion with establishment of a faster transatlantic steamship service. Mr Hunter we take to be a public-spirited cosmopolite of liberal views. In gratitude for human progress in the past, won amid many a set-back thru strenuous perseverance, sacrifice and even martyrdom, our benefactor has made this thank-offering for benefits enjoyed by helping on the car of progress in the spirit of words Lowel puts in Cromwel's mouth:

"So speaks that inward voice which never yet Spake falsely, when it urged the spirit on To noble emprise for country and mankind. And, for success, I ask no more than this,— To bear unflinching witness to the truth. All true whole men succeed; for what is worth Success's name, unless it be the thought, The inward surety, to have carried out A noble purpose to a noble end, Although it be the gallows or the block?"

We intend to divide the gift equally in help to four objects that now appear to require it more or less urgently:

(1) Converting proofreaders by putting all such whose addresses we can get or that may be sent us on THE HERALD's mailing list for two or three years, trusting their conversion may lead to practice and use of Preferred Spellings especially (as those on p. 86 and others). We have appealed to publishers and the public generally to the neglect of proofreaders who are autocrats in spelling, each in his own office, and whom compositors obey, willingly or not. Even publishers and the public have little to say as to wordforms, thru indifference. Proofreaders have intelligence, which, when they stop to reason, should lead aright.

(2) Provide an easy and effective way of teaching the analysis and synthesis of words to children especially—a problem not yet satisfactorily solved, and of paramount importance to steady progress—and so raise a generation bred to better ways.

(3) Extending our general circulation. 100 workers each judiciously distributing 100 copies of every issue would give a circulation of 10,000, five times what it is now.

(4) Ad \$12.15 to our type-fund.

WITH THE LINGUISTS.

Actual workers and thinkers in linguistics are ever touching questions within THE HERALD's purview. Some of these matters have deep interest and bearing for us.

Dr Sweet (*Le Maître Phonétique*, Dec'r last) has an important contribution upon Mixed Vowels. Amid much else, the

RELATION OF VOWEL IN *up* TO Λ comes in for this statement (with Λ used as he does for the vowel commented on):

"I have for some time been puzzled by a wide va-

riety of the English vowel in *up* [Ap], which I think now is my own natural pronunciation. It is not the lo-mixt-wide vowel, which formerly was the only place I could find for it. I now find it the outform of the vowel in *father*, from which it is obtained by simply moving the tang forward into the mid of the mouth, preserving the slope of the tang. The first element of the diphthong in 'eye' seems to be the same vowel."

We believe Sweet's pronunciation of *father* to be $\text{fo}\delta^{\circ}$ in our notation. We find Λ in

above a custom came dabl Dutch encourage
frant inductiv instruction mach maftd number
one ather pronunciation pazl resalt substitute
stady sach same andoutedly ander.

In it we remark that Λ occurs before *r* but once (*encourage*), and then a vowel immediately follows *r*. In case of *r* + consonant, Dr Sweet (who drops such *r*) uses held ə (ə) instead of Λ (as $\text{w}\text{ə}:\text{k}$, *work*) in

observ first disturbing further he(a)rd.

If Λ is the "wide variety" of the vowel in *up*, ə : must be very near the close variety. The pairing of the vowel in *up* with that in *no* has been least satisfactory of any. Should it be found to pair best with *a*-vowels, a troublesome hitch is replaced by a solution comparatively simple.

When the Modern Language Association met at Cambridge, Mas., just after Christmas, its president, Prof. Sheldon, spoke on "Practical Filology." Now, revision of wordforms is a focus to which converge about all that is practical in filology. The *New York Nation* (Jan. 9) says Prof. S. "emphasized the linguist's relation to grammar and dictionary, cautioning even him against neglecting the dictates of custom which establish somewhat different standards from those expected in a natural development of language. The filologist recognizes evolution of linguistic forms; he must still acknowledge as must every educated person

THE CLAIMS OF FASION.

Prof. S. expressed a wish for broader recognition in dictionaries of both natural and acquired forms of spoken language, and deplored in strongest terms any conflict between the filologist and his sometime literary antagonist. (Aplaus)."

The *Nation* (Jan 9) gave too an account of a paper by Prof. Thomas (Columbia) on

AMELIORATION OF SPELLING.

He brot forward no radical scheme, he posed as no self-satisfied leader in a great movement but poked fun at extremists on both sides; he presented the anomalies and absurdities of our present cacographic mode and aded one practical suggestion: educate common-school teachers in the

HISTORY OF SPELLING;

how astounding and absurd anomalies grew up, and the senselessness of preserving what has long become outgrown and useless. Such plan would bring realization of