

# The Herald.

DEVOTED TO PRONUNCIATION AND AMENDED SPELLING.

4<sup>TH</sup> YEAR.

TORONTO, CANADA, Sept., 1888.

NR 37

## PRONUNCIATION.

(Continued from page 141.)

In every attempt to indicate actual Pronunciation it is necessary to have some sign to denote what has been variously named the neutral, dul, or obscure vowel. What sign shall be chosen is matter of some, but not paramount, importance. For this, a turned e (e) is much used. Some, as Pitman and Sayce, use the same sign for it, whatever that sign may be, as for vowel in *all*; the later goes so far (see p. 123) as to use it for that in *up* also—with neither of which practices do we agree. After full consideration, we choose tailed e (e) mainly because the sound is represented so often by e in Orthography. The sign e belongs to Orthography alone, not to Orthography.

Archives	ark'ivz
cuneiform	kyū ne'i form
posthumous	post'hyū mus
credulity	cre dyū'li ti
credulous	cred'yū lus
Parnell	Par'nel or Parnel

It accords with British usage to accent the first syllable of the Irish leader's name: in America, Par nel' prevails. A like shifting of accent occurs with other names, as Waddel, Gravel, etc. Tho' our language favors accenting first syllable, yet it is less so in America than elsewhere. Stress is very strong with many natives of England, and, especially when conjoined with emphasis, may be termed explosiv. We have not observed this with natives of Ireland, Scotland, or Wales.

(To be continued.)

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☞ These pages have a missionary object. Your influence to extend circulation is solicited.

## RUNIC LETTERS.

The name *Runic* was called so from Rūn, used by Teutons to designate mystery of riting, believing runes possess magic influence, as stopping a vessel in her course, divert an arrow, cause love or hatred, raise the corpse from its grave, or cast the living into death-slumbers. On account of idolatrous veneration with which paganism invested these runes, early preachers and missionaries endeavored to introduce Roman characters in stead. Doutles from this, Ulfilas [4th c.] refrained from riting his version of Scriptures in runes employed by Gothic nations and adopted a modification of Greek and Latin alphabets. After conversion, Anglo-Saxons adopted the later. They were obliged to retain two runes as they were no corresponding Roman characters: the old Thorn Þ, for which Latin expression was *th*, and Wen ƿ. After Norman Conquest, ƿ was superseded by double u [w], but Þ had more prolonged career. This and a modified Roman letter, Ðð, divided *th* sounds between them, the former representing *th* in *thing*, the later as in *thine*. During Saxon period these were used without distinction, or very ill-observed discrimination: ultimately, both were banished by general adoption of *th*. This change was not completely established till the very close of 15th cent. [Ðð disappeared about 1250; Þ alone was in use till 1500. In 1115 the Council of Toledo forbade the use of runes because employed in magic.] *The* and *that* continued to be ritten Þe [or Þe = ƿ] and Þat or Þt. This habit lasted long after its original meaning was forgotten. Þ got confused with *y* at a time when *y* was closed a-top\*, and then people wrote 'ye' for *the* and 'yat' or 'yt' for *that*. This has continued almost to our times; and it may be doubted whether the practice has entirely ceased even now.—ROEMER, in *Origin of English*, page 136.

\*[In the following sample line, called Old English by printers, observe *ys*.—EDITOR.]

Do Your Duty, my Boy.

KEY: a a a e i i o o u u ū  
az in art at ale ell cel it I or ox no up put ooze