

The Herald.

DEVOTED TO PRONUNCIATION AND AMENDED SPELLING.

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UNIFORM PROPER NAMES IN SCRIPTURE.

The fifteenth plank in our Platform as printed on the cover calls for establish or fixt speling; that is, speling unvarying or unwavering. A foreman in a large printing-hous in Toronto (the Methodist Book Room) tels us that, bad as old speling is, as evry printer very wel understands and deplores, yet, becaus fixt, it promotes order, that is, uniformity in word-forms, in evry such hive of busy workers, but unsetld word-forms wud caus confusion intolerabl, vexatios, time-wasting—bad as ar old forms, unsetld new ones, no mater how very meritorios otherwise, wud be worse.

Again, the fifteenth plank says that the requirements of literature demand a fixt speling, a subject too large to do justice to now. Space permits us only to remind readers of a small part of a vast subject:

During revizion of biblical translation, the varying forms of proper names in the translated Jewish and Cristian scriptures receivd attention. Of this some account was givn by A. Roberts, D. D., in his *Companion to the Revized Version of The English New Testament*, wherin, speaking of proper names, in part ii, chap. iii, he said:—

"The comon sens principl . . . is that one form shud be preservd throuot Scripture for the same person, so that ther may be no dout as to identity. . . . This rule is grosly violated in the Authorized Version. We find such varieties as Noah and Noe, Korah and Core, Hosea and Osee, Sinai and Sina, Midian and Madian, Miletus and Miletum, etc., uzed in referring to the same persons and places—most confusing, sometimes entailing serios disadvantage."—Page 111.

Trench, *On the Authorized Version*, says:

"Let us just seek to realize to ourselvs the difference in amount of awakeud attention among a cuntry congregation which Matt. xvii, 10, wud create if red thus: 'And his disiples askt him, saying, Why then say the scribes that ELIJAH must first come?' as compared with what it now is likely to create."—Page 41.

Rev. Dr Roberts then proceeds:—

"The procedure of our translators in this mater is truly incomprehensibl. Not only do they vary forms in the Old and New Testament, but in the New Testament itself, even in the same books, yea, even in the same chapters. Thus we find 'Mark' at Acts xii, 12, 25 and 2 Tim. iv, 11, but 'Marcus' at Col. iv, 10, Philemon vers 24, 1 Peter v, 13; 'Cretes' at Acts ii, 11, but 'Cretians' at Titus i, 12; 'Simon, son of Jona', at John i, 42, but 'Simon, son of Jonas', at John xxi, 15, 16, 17; 'Luke' at Col. iv, 14, 2 Tim. iv, 11, but 'Lucas' at Philem.

vers 24; 'Jeremy' at Matt. ii, 17, but 'Jeremias' at Matt. xvi, 14, and 'Jeremy' again at Matt. xxvii, 9; 'Timotheus' at Acts xvi, 1, but 'Timothy' at Heb. xiii, 21, and most strange of all, 'Timothy' at 2 Cor. i, 1, but 'Timotheus' at vers 19 of the same chapter. . . . These and similar inconsistencies ar correctd in ths Revized Version."—Page 112.

Jesus and *Joshua* hav the same word-form, 'Iησοῦς, in Greek, translated "Jesus" in Acts vii, 45, Heb. iv, 8, when Joshua, leader of Israel, is ment—a misleading puzl to plain readers. Roberts proceeds:

"At Acts xvii, 19, we find 'Areopagus', but only three verses after the same spot is 'Mars Hill'; 'Judea' at Matt. ii, 1, and most other places, for some inconceivabl reason appears as 'Jewry' at Luke, xxiii, 5, John vii, 1; 'Judas', the uzual New Testament form for 'Judah' of the Old, appears as 'Juda' at Mark, vi, 3, etc., and as 'Jude' in the first vers of the Episl by that Apostl. It is hard to defend such capricios variations."—Page 113.

A proper name is fixt comonly for one language only. A study of the genealogies of Matthew and Luke in difrent modern languages wil reveal striking variations in word-forms. A frend says that he is glad that some use for these genealogies has been found at last.

From the foregoing we infer two corollaries: first, variant spelings ar an evil; second, choice of the beter ones is conventional (Platform, §10).

A paralel case is that of geografic names now going thru the *conventional* mil of the geografic societies, their jurnals and transactions, with asociated workers.

DUBL CONSONANTS.

Sevn hundred years ago Ormin proposd and practist in his book, the *Ormulum*, denoting "short" or secondary vowels by dubling the consonant after each.

In our colums for April last Mr Willner urged that "dubl leters hav their uses and shud be retaind in strest [stopt] sylabls". He is "raddical" enuf to spel *radical* so.

Prof. C. P. G. Scott, in the Saint Louis, Mo., *Phonetic Teacher* for May and June, 1882, rote under the motto

"Double, double; toile and trouble"
from the witches' song in *Macbeth*, (Act iv, Scene i, where they make hel-broth, a vile compound like complex, retched speling):

"A great deal of the confusion in current speling of English arises from the arbitrary use of