

The Herald.

DEVOTED TO PRONUNCIATION AND AMENDED SPELLING.

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CURRENT LITERATURE.—The *Forum* for Dec. has an article by March on the "Reign of Law in Spelling." It is popular in character, not pretending to make advances in our noledg, pleads that Law, or regularity, be allowed to prevail in sp. as elsewhere, instead of present caos. As a first step it urges that the better of two current spellings be chosen and used, such choice not to be by caprice but by rule or law. If the article does not lay down principles necessary to guide us in this selection, it gives a list of individuals favorabl to amendment of sp. This jingl of names the same riter has givn in *Chautauquan* for June, '87. Like letters of introduction and recommendations generally, we believe such usesles in America. The publication of such names in Canada, ofn givn, has amounted to littl. Authority goes for littl in cis-atlantic circls. In the *Century* for March is an editorial on "The English Lang. in America" giving certn facts and views as to what our trans-atlantic speakers comonly sneer at as the "Great American Lang." with its "Americanisms," forgetting that as a rule such ar largely survivals here of what has died out there. The *Century* shows that on this side is a soil on which Simplific'n of Spelling is likely to gro, becaus that and much els is "in the air" here; while there (even in the Filologic Society's new dictionary) "practically its influence is in favor of most conservativ and certnly obsolete spelling." That is good! In the current fasciculus, dated Oct. 1888, of the *Proceedings of the Canadian Institute* will be found an illustrated article of 30 pages by T. B. Browning, M.A., on "Elocutionary Drill" in which ther is a good deal said about spelling and vowel-acoustics, with some mater introductory to fixing standard vowels by means of tuning-forks and metal resonators. In the same number is "A Contribution to the study of the Franco-Canadian Dialect" by J. Squair, B. A. Mr. S. has givn wordlists made by actual observation at Ste Anne de Beaupre, near Quebec City. Sound-shifting has been going on with efect that Quebec French and that of Paris hav drifted asunder. Quebec French is therefore not standard. The article is of much interest in Comparativ Filology.

*REVISED SPELLING:— OMIT usesles loters; CHANGE *d* to *t*, *gh* to *f*, *ght* to *f*, *tch* to *tsh*, if sounded so

UNITE AND AGREE.

We shud not fail but thru our own divisions, and this faith inspires us with hope. Let us giv up the vain desire for absolute perfection of fonetics of visibl speech, so fasinating to students of Melvil Bell; content with moderat changes carid out at once by present printing apparatus; let our watsh-word be "Union," and we shal win. * * * Let us form agresiv partis, and cut into the falanx of officialism; let leading filologists and teachers leag together and atak the spelling idol, and at last he wil be carted away. Then Kintergarten children wil lern a real system of fonetics, and reading wil ceas to be a trubl; then elder children wil translate sounds from one language to another, and boys and girls no longer uter the French of Stratford atte Bowe; then wil a tru and realy scientific filology become possibl, not for the few only, but for all who hav been saved from stupefying waste of time involvd in repeating for ever in riting the follis of English conventional spelling.—D. BEAL in *Journal of Education*

The chief difficulty in way of introducing a reform that nearly all scolars agree to recomend as desirabl is impossibility at present, of uniting on any practicabl system. It is certnly not desirabl to change the present system for haf a dozen others; one general system in Britan and another in this cuntry, wud be confusion wors confounded. Reform shud come by gradual development as it has come with German, Italian and other languages. If ritters and printers of these languages had set their faces resolutely against all changes of spelling, as do English critics of American beginings at sp. reform, ther wud hav been no reform there probably. A general tendency to simplified sp. shud be welcomed, not resisted, with this modification, that reform must be by comon consent, an evolution and not an arbitrary and artificial system, one may accept as good doctrin Prof. Swing's dictum: "The human race that wil from deliberat choice spel program programme, and tistic phthisic, and, when its folly is pointed to, proceeds to affirm that it prefers the long way, shud be compelled to go bak to canal-boats, pak-horses, dipt candls and sermons two ours long. Progres is a universal movement in all things."—*Boston Evening Transcript*.