

The Herald.

DEVOTED TO PRONUNCIATION AND AMENDED SPELLING.

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WHAT REFORMERS SHUD DO.

No one ever thinks of subsisting on air. It is important, but not the only essential of life. A spelling reformer cannot; never has, and never will live on air; nor is he helped by mere criticism and inactivity. It is necessary that he be encouraged and supported by active, personal and financial interest in his work. He works not for himself, but for the multitude. His own enthusiasm counts for much; but it never fills his coffers; often empties them. Sir Isaac Pitman's experience was a striking instance of this. Tho he had the proceeds of his shorthand books to help him, he actually had to mortgage his copyright to obtain financial aid; and only twenty years before death was the last advance cleared off. Some loans, thru the kindness and liberality of Sir Walter Trevelyan, were allowed to lapse. What Sir Walter did all can and should do according to their several ability. To erect a monument, as did the Scots, to Burns, *after* he was dead, was a poor discharge of their responsibility for neglecting him *alive*. "So crucified they the profets" will ever be adjustable to the three tenses, past, present, future. It should, *can* be, otherwise. Unfortunately

"'T is true, 't is pity, and pity 't is 't is true."

Is this reproach applicable to spelling reformers? They can remove it.

Men of brains who will both think (and give ripe counsel) as well as work and give money are wanted to bear the burden of this movement. Can any one say that Dr Larison of Ringos and Dr Hamilton of Toronto receive adequate support? Neither of these gentlemen are professional agitators. They have their own living to make. Yet as a labor of love (due to strong convictions) they devote much time and money to the movement; and for lack of funds are hampered in their work. If the readers of *The Journal of Orthoepy and Or-*

thography and of *THE HERALD* would think for five minutes of the labors of the editors of these periodicals, to say nothing of their sacrifices, a more generous response would result. Some withhold support because certain letters, pronunciations or methods are adopted. Is such reason valid? Absolute agreement cannot be obtained just yet, especially in a work involving fonetic propaganda. That is coming in time—it is making perceptible advance by and thru *THE HERALD*. We must bear and forbear diversity till approximately accord grows. The best way of bearing is to bear part of the expenses incurred in carrying on the work of this reform. Both journals are worthy of wider constituencies. Readers can help to increase their circulations, or assist their editors to place them before educationists.

Certain friends imagine considerable support will be forthcoming when fonography becomes universal. It is a charitable delusion. Isolated fonographers will assist; the bulk of them, tho they become as numerous as the sands on the sea-shore, will not contribute one cent in furtherance of orthographic reform. Fonography is acquired for gain. No selfish man is ever troubled about the advance of any reform. What reason is there to anticipate better things from future fonographers when the present ones so utterly fail to support the application of the fonetic principle to orthography? Let fonography spread, and let fonographers increase. I shall rejoice and be glad, but the burden of fonetic reform will fall on other shoulders. Let there be no delusion about that. Spelling reformers and educationists must fight the battle. Meanwhile Dr Larison and Dr Hamilton deserve practical sympathy and support. Give it.

Hetton-le-Hole, Eng..

H. DRUMMOND.

"A SHAME."—When *THE HERALD* suspended publication a few years ago, *Le Maitre Ponetique* (Feb., 1890) said:

"*THE HERALD* was a bright little paper, very large [broad, liberal] in its views (everyone that had anything to say being welcome to use its pages), and wonderfully cheap. It is a shame that it could not find supporters. The good seed it has been sowing will still grow in the end."

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