

The Phonetic Herald

DEVOTED TO PRONUNCIATION AND REVISED SPELLING.

2ND YER. PORT HOPE, CANADA, JUN, 1886. N^R. 16.

STAGES OF PROGRES.

It is not wise to ask the general public to accept any form of spelling more simplified than that called

REVISED SPELLING

given by Rules A and B of which present spelling affords example. It rectifies a great deal altho simpl. Such farther moderat revision as may from time to time be made in the same direction shud be included in this term Revised Spelling. This term appears apropiat becaus sugesting the obvius paralel to Revised Translation of the Bible. Evry one can claim the same authority for both—the highest scolarship. Many wil think it too moderat. Such shud recollect that the public clings to old forms from simpl custom long after comon sens has condemd them. The German prefers the old German characters long after admision that Roman forms ar superior. Our laity stil prefer a translation ofn eroneus to a correct one. We hav recently seen the statement that the French pesant stil clings to the old irregular system of weights and mesures before a decimal system.

PRONOUNCING ORTHOGRAPHY

is such as has provided a separat sign for each vowel (including difthongs, altho this is matr of opinion) with fixt letr or digraf for each consonant. We then hav an aproximatly acurat representation of the sound which need not depart greatly from word forms in current use. As to what set of signs shal be used ther is diference of opinion. We hav used a certan set to giv orthoepy of words. See pages 44, 48. The same shape is always employd to denote the same quality of sound; the accent mark is an indicator of quanti

ty all sufficient for ordinary purposes. Such orthograpy may be used in sentences and paragraphs for reading. So the correct orthoepy of words is redily taut, practist and impress on the mind. In paragraphs, unles otherwise exprest, the first sylabl is understood to be accented. It is a rule that the accent tends to the first sylabl. An exampl wil be found in Sowing and Reaping.

SCHOOL ORTHOGRAPHY

is a stage scarcely les acurat than that just givn, and difering from it in that 'a' is used for the two vowels in *at* and *arm*; 'u' is used for the vowel in *rule* as well as in *put*, as al-o by consequence *u* for either when *yd*. When *oo* stands for vowel in *rule* in the old spelling, it may stil be employd. School Orthograpy is a means of teaching a fairly acurat pronunciation. It has the merit that it leavs optional the vowel in a certan clas of words, as for exampl whether fast or fast is the pronunciation of *fast*. An ilustration is givn by the May Song.

A stage intermediat between School and Revised Spelling may be necessary. Its limits can be givn in future. We then hav four stages which in order ar

1. Revised
2. Intermediat
3. School
4. Pronouncng.

—A litl felo in a primary school, havng corectly speld *knife*, askt the teacher a puzler 'But what is the *k* for?'

—A. N. Merriman, principal of the Hayes School, Chicago, says: 'The most difficult thing we hav to teach is *spelling*. It is a long, hard, laborius and almost hopeles task, and *hinders us* in ail the other brar-hes. This system [spelling by sound] reliev us of all our trubl. This is reaw-
abl, plain, simpl and direct and o't to hav been made and adopted five hundred years ago.'