

The Herald.

DEVOTED TO PRONUNCIATION AND AMENDED SPELLING.

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OPINIONS.

Simplification of English orthography would facilitate learning to read.—J.S. MILL.

In the interests of etymology, I wish the common spelling were utterly smashed.—PROF. SKEAT.

There is much that might be done with advantage in the reform of English spelling.—W. E. GLADSTONE.

Retention of the present spelling simply shows the mighty power of tradition without reason or even common sense.—COL. F. W. PARKER, University of Chicago.

Our unscientific, blundering, muddling spelling is the greatest evil which assails the education of English-speaking youth.—DR WM H. WARD, editor of *The Independent*, New York.

No greater relief could be given youth than a reasonable modification in favor of simplicity as against present complexity and numerous anomalies of our accursed spelling.—L. H. JONES, superintendent of schools, Cleveland, Ohio.

A more lying, round-about, puzzle-headed delusion than that by which we confuse the pure instincts of truth in our accursed system of spelling was never concocted by the father of falsehood. How can a system of education flourish that begins by so monstrous a falsehood, which the sense of hearing suffices to contradict?—BULWER-LYTTON.

More serious is the actual mischief done by subjecting young minds to the illogical and tedious drudgery of learning to read English as spelled at present. Everything they have to learn in reading (or pronunciation) and spelling is irrational; one rule contradicting another, each statement accepted simply on authority, with complete disregard of all those rational instincts which lie dormant in the child, and out to be awakened by every kind of healthy exercise.—Prof. MAX MUELLER.

No system of spelling can be so simple but that it needs to be taught and governed by rules. The plausibility, "Write as you pronounce," is crude and impracticable.—Prof. C. W. KNUDSEN.

—This invites you to subscribe.

NEWS-NOTES AND COMMENTS.

—*The Century* magazine (Aug., '01) has over five pages on Simplification of Spelling by Prof. Brander Matthews from which we shall quote when space permits. Magazine articles are important for propagandism.

—"A common-sense movement" is how Mr Hodgson, an inspector of Ontario High Schools, characterizes amended spelling.

—Mr and Mrs Drummond's greeting at Xmas dropped into verse in this spelling:

"God bless our native land,
May Heaven's protecting hand
Still guard our shore,
May peace her power extend,
For be transformed to friend,
And Britain's rights depend
On war no more."

—The *British Produce Market Review* advocates the metric system and reformation of English spelling.

—More, *Commercial Intelligence* inserts letters urging use of shorthand in law courts and simplified spelling in commercial correspondence.

—The German Orthographic Conference (explained on our p. 77) met at Berlin 17th to 21st July. It was composed of delegates from different states of Germany and Austria. Its object was less the simplifying of spelling as making uniform (or causing to disappear little differences in) official orthographies in different states. [It worked then on the low plane of Variant Spellings]. On one point it authorized an important simplification: reduction of th to t [which sound th has always in German] in all words of German origin. They now write Thal, Tor, Teil, Tat, tun, instead of Thal, Theil, etc.—Le Maître Phonétique. [Th is kept when from Greek theta, a concession to derivation presumably temporary.]

—*Der Deutscher Buch- und Steindruckerei* of Berlin (Sept., '01) says: "The orthographic question is important for the schoolbook trade. Das Boersenblatt reports briefly that nothing definite can be said as to when the new orthography will be officially announced and introduced into schools. The results of the Orthographic Conference, at which attended, as representatives of the Financial Committee of the German Booksellers' Association, Mr Ernst Vollert (of the book house of Weidmann, Berlin) and Dr Alfred Giesecke (of B. G. Teubner, Leipzig) are now officially fixed, and nothing remains but to obtain consent from the various participating German governments to decisions reached by the Conference. As soon as this is got the new book of rules will be published. Should this not be possible by Oct. 1st, it is hardly likely that the Prussian government will require that by Easter publishers have ready schoolbooks in new orthography. In any case, it is advisable that publishers of schoolbooks do not begin preparation for printing before next fall."

—The foregoing news item is a remarkable picture: a nation alert to revise and make uniform the wordforms of its language which do