

# The Herald.

DEVOTED TO PRONUNCIATION AND AMENDED SPELLING.

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## FIRST LINE OF ADVANCE. AMENDED (OR REVIZED) SPELLING.

As a first stage, the question is how far we shud progress with likelihood that the Public wil agree—agreement manifested by the Pres (an arbiter nearly absolute) accepting, and a good-natured, indifrent Public permitting, as it permitted *k* dropt from *musick*, *traffick*, etc., erlier in this century.

Now, a law of mechanics is "Motion is in direction of least resistance." We shud move so too if the direction is aproved by valid reasons. "Be sure yu 'r right, then go ahead," said Davey Crocket. Whether a step is right or not depends on its agreement with establisht Principles of Orthograpy, which it is not time now to elucidate. Suffice it to say that Omisions ar accepted more redily than Changes. Omisions and Changes compose nearly all reform. Dropping leters manifestly superfluos meets favor: as Tennyson (a prominent acter in spelling reform circles) says:—

"That man 's the true conservative  
Who lops the withered branch away."

In these pages we first take the curent Speling, but, when two or more forms ar in use, select the simpler, if at all authorized, (as *adz*, *plow*, *wagon*, *program*, *rime*, *ax*, *wo*, *favor*) and then ar guided by these Principles (Shal we call them Rules?):—

OMIT (fonetically) useles leters;

CHANGE (if sounded so) *d* to *t*, and *ph* or *gh* to *f*; let *-er* denote agent-nouns; as in *telegraft*, *flurisht*, *laf*, *governer*, *soliciter*.

The resultant difers from establisht Speling in many word-forms, and so is calld Amended Speling. It is red as redily as establisht Speling, producing minimum of resistance or friction, litl likely to alarm prejudice or provoke oposition in any one at all inclined to amelioration. It may be calld Revized Speling, becaus analogos to the Revized Version of Scripture, in making which revizers, not to awake bigotry or disturb wont, kept even too close to the Authorized Version.

## GRADES OF LETERS.

Our preceding issue had 4 misprints in which *e* was not corected to *e*, viz., "encuragement" for encouragement on page 1, "done" for done, "spel for spel, on page 2, and "fuler" for fuler, on p. 3. In some unintentional way a few *e*'s, a form uzed by March, Vickroy, Knudsen, Larison and others, got into the *e*-box. Now, *e* is so like *e* that few readers wud note the difrence until attention was directed. Slight difrences ar les markt in printers' "proof" than in ful impresion becaus ofn dul and blurd and so escape corection. This exemplifies the conclusion that *e* shud not be uzed with *e*. Indeed, *c* and *e* ar ofn confounded—an argument for rejecting *c* and retaining *k*. Correspondents rite us about Prof. "Victor" when we certnly put "Viotor" (see p. 2 of number 51,) which but servs to show that in legibility *c* is of low grade. If to the pair *ce*, we ad *ee* and *ec*, then likelihood of eror is multiplied by 3. Ten years ago a report was made on legibility of leters (epitomized in *Science* for 5th Feb., 1886.) We quote:—

"Mr J. Cattell has recently publisht in 'Mind' the results of studis upon brain and eye inertia. Some alfabets ar harder to see than others, and difrent leters of the same alfabet ar not equally legibl. It seems probabl that two varietis of leters, capital and small, is more of hurt than help to eye and brain. Ornaments on leters hinder: consequently German type is injurios. Simpler geometric forms ar easiest to see. Lines must not be too thin. We judge from thik lines: it is doubtful whether it is best to uze thin and thik lines in print. From all these considerations it appears that we hav not improved on Roman leters."

In the Augustan age, capital forms only wer uzed. From inscriptions we no that lines wer of equal thiknes, thus:—

## DEI LEGIBVS OBSEQVAMVR

These leters ar now ofn calld "blok leters" by painters and others. They ar considerd very legibl. As to modern leters:

"Certn leters wer uzually red corectly, others wer uzually misred or not seen at all. Out of a series having each leter repeated 270 times, W was seen 211 times, F only 63 times. Order of legibility: WZMDHKNXAYOGLQISCTRPBVFUJE. Certn leters, as S and C, ar hard to recognize in themselves; others ar mistaken for leters similar in form, as O and Q."