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The Herald.

DEVOTED TO PRONUNCIATION AND AMENDED SPELLING.

VOL. II, 6.

TORONTO, CANADA, April, 1898.

N^R. 56.

SPEECH-DISTRICTS.

We shud aim at speech free from local color. Advocacy of London, Dublin or anywhere els shud ceas. Dr Lloyd, Liverpool, has givn his views (in *Neuere Sprachen*, July, 1895) on some points:—

“The time has gon by when any geografic standard of good English was posibl. The best English is that which avoids vulgaritis of evry clas and GIVS FEWEST SIGNS OF LOCALITY. Careful speakers naturally strive to divest themselvs of vulgarisms and localisms. Hence ther is a continual asimilating tendency in the pronunciation of careful speakers,—a tendency which never quite fulfils itself, but which nevertheles is now the actual, if imperfect, standard of corect English speech. Under these circumstances any local standard is sure to be false; and none more so than that of London, becaus no other place has more pronounced or more abhorrent localisms. The reason why London localisms ar particularly abhorrent is that they proceed from below. They ar the ofspring of Cokny corruption and hence convey sugestions of vulgarity such as ar not conveyd by the national localisms of an Irishman, a Scotsman or an American.”

Excluding localitis, ther ar some districts wherin prevails speech aproximatly uniform. Of this, Lloyd says:—

“The largest homogeneous body of English pronunciation which exists at the presnt moment is that which extends from the Ohio northwards, counting thirty milions of speakers. The next, les homogeneous, but very distinguishabl, is that of the Suthern States. The third, which also includes minor varietis, is Northern English educated speech extending from about the fifty-third to about the fifty-fifth paralel of north latitude. The London area comes fourth, and is in many ways unfitted to furnish the standard of good English speech. It is neither central, nor homogeneous, nor stable, nor preponderant.”

Considering the population mentiond, thirty milions, Lloyd must mean residents north of the latitude of Cincinnati at the mouth of the Ohio; or, in other words, the northern United States and Canada (?), in which belt, except perhaps in New England, ther is remarkabl uniformity from Halifax to San Francisco, from Atlantic to Pacific. A Nova Scotian may travel a ful week by fast express, and, when he halts in California or British Columbia, be distinguisht with difficulty from a nativ.

As to how this came about Lloyd has elswhere (*Westminster Review* for March, 1897) said:—

“In Washington's time the ruling dialect was the suthern, and the hole Mississippi Vally and Canada took their English in the first instance from the south. But when settlers began to pour

into the Ohio Vally they came mostly by way of New York and Pennsylvania [yet largely by Quebec and the St Lawrence], bringing with them a northern dialect and pushing the suthern type continually farther west.”

We ar told that

“New England has always had peculiaritis of its own. Its rustic dialects, immortalized by Lowell, ar simply old rustic English transplanted to a western soil; while Boston, on the other hand, has been so sensitiv to English literary influences that its pronunciation is to-day nearer to that of London in some particulars than that of Liverpool or Manchester.”

Of the speech of the Suthern States we lern that it

“appears to hav been the most stable. It has striking resemblances to London-English of 100 or 120 years ago, and for that reason is very much les removed from our northern-English than it is from ordinary London-English of the presnt day. The reason for its stability may perhaps be the comparativ absence of great citis, the etiquette of a compact ruling clas and the markt segregation of the lower orders. In London the corruption of language seems to proceed chiefly from below.”

DIALECTLES SPEECH.

A communication with the title above is in the November number of our polyglot contemporary, *Le Maître Phonétique* (20 to 32 pages octavo monthly, 11 route de Fontenay, Bourg-la-Reine, Seine, France, 3 francs a year). The articl is by Prof. Kewitsch, Freiburg, Germany, with coments by Father Spiesser, Waldhambach, and by Prof. Vietor, Marburg. It is a plea that, instead of dialectic colougal, standard speech be givn in *Le Maître Phonétique*—so important that we quote largely from it. In the pages of *Le Maître Phonétique* (May, 1889), ably seconded by Rev. J. H. Kidder, Owego, N. Y., we urged this. The English part of *Le Maître Phonétique* has never been satisfactory, say others. Mr Kidder went so far as to say, “If English is spoken so anywhere on the face of the erth, may God hav mercy on the place and send a schoolmaster!” In July, 1891, after Doctor Sweet had ritn in German for Germans a primer of spoken English (*Elementarbuch des Gesprochenen Englisch*) we again calld attention to this, quoting with other things from a notice of the *Elementarbuch* in *The Athenæum* for 23d August, 1890:—

“The pronunciation noted seems somewhat slovenly, that is, to say, elisions appear more fre-

quent and the difrence between the strest and unstrest sounds of certn words greater than in the average speech of certn peopl."

If this be true of transatlantic speech, where, for exampl, for *Gladstone* they say glædst:n;, it is more marktly true in cisatlantic speech, where we say glædston-
The Athenæum continues:—

"If we ar right in this opinion, it is a pity that the 'Elementarbuch' shud hav been so genrally accepted in Germany as an authority on orthoepy. Doctor Sweet himself, indeed, makes no such claim for it; he seems rather to think that ther is no criterion for determining which of two pronunciations is the beter. We shud be inclined to say that, as the end of language is to be understood, the intrinsically best pronunciation is that which has the greatest degree of clearnes short of what genral educated uzage agrees in condemnin as pedantic."

When a word has a setld or "fixt" form, it is easier for both printer and reader—variant forms ar a vexatios nuisance in a printing-office, where the dozen, hundred, or thousand busy workers *must* agree to act in concert. Variant forms hinder the reader, too. He wants forms familiar to his eye, forms which, stereotyped by habit and use, right or rong, strike his mind as a picture, and which he has not to stop to spel out. This he finds much easier, and prefers becaus it offers les resistance, for "motion is in the direction of least resistance." But let Kewitsch speak in words translated by Mr N. J. Werner, St Louis:

"The management permits each contributor to portray his pronunciation as seems best to him. This shifts the responsibility on the riter of an articl and lessens the editor's own work. The result is that readers ar burdend if not dismayd in its perusal. When as a German I find it difficult as wel as time-robbing to read such matter in my mother-tung, what about the foriner? Whoever wishes to treat of dialects shud contribute to a jurnal of his own cuntry. . . . We rite not only to please ourselvs but that our contribution may be red; els it might as wel be lockt up in our desk."

With Doctor Murray's opinions, on which the ninth plank in our Platform is bilt, Kewitsch coincides in efect: for in maters international

"One shud not be permitted to talk therin just as one's tung is twisted—as thoslouchin in dressing-gown and slippers; rather as if clothed in dres-suit—but rite in the method believed to be standard. Dropping and sluring sounds come of themselvs in quik speech; we can from distinct, slow speech slide off into fast speech, not vice versa. Ocasionaly short exampls of dialectic colloquial speech may be givn, but in the main text standard alone."

As to what is standard and its rigidity:

"Evrybody feels that ther is a standard speech consisting of precise forms; otherwise each acter on the stage cud speak as he pleasd. The speech considerd standard by each nation rests on custom, inclination, taste, imitation, compromise and—fasion. The language of the stage is not by any means at all times and at all places the same. With the idea of standard pronunciation is not necessarily asociated rigid uniformity. [That pertains to orthografy, rather.] One can, e g., pronounce g in Freiburg either as k or A without ofending."

His prescription is:

"Place responsibility for the standard on the management of Le Maitre Phonetique. Whoever caris greater responsibility is more careful to find the corect. Therby we obtain word-forms uniform and more easily red. . . . It is posibl that a sub-editer for any language may er; wel, errors may be disclosed and verified. At any rate, I prefer uniform pronunciation and print, even with errors in unimportant maters, to caos."

Altogether, Kewitsch has made out his case; which Spieser and Viotor do not controvert—nor any one els up to Februa-ry—but appear rather to endors.

The noble service done by our polyglot contemporary wil be nobler stil by leav- ing dialects to dialect societis for each language. Tel us what is "receivd" French, German, Italian, Spanish, English, etc.—Select what we ar to "aim at" (*Murray*) and copy, not embaras and hinder us with bewildering variety.

REVIZING A HYMNAL.—The Presbyteri- an Church in Canada some years ago de- termind to hav a revized hymnal. Much work has been done and expens incurd in selecting and printing specimen colec- tions, etc. In June, 1896, "copy" was about completed, when a motion was carid in- structing the hymnal comitte to uze spel- ing authorized by *A Standard Dictionary*. The succesful tenderer for printing was the Oxford University Press, over which presides Mr Horace Hart, whom readers of these pages for January, 1897, p. 3, wil recognize as highly conservativ in spel- ing. It is wonderful that his pres did not "all go to everlasting smash" when endings *or*, for *our*, went thru it. Printers ar too inflexibl in this. Mr Hart yielded: end- ings in *or* ar uniformly carid out—not so preterits in *-t*. Spellings like "distrest" ar not uncomon, but preterits in *-ed* prevail. We wud rather hav seen them carid out consistently, which is not the case even in the same hym. Thus, we find,

"Art thou weary, art thou languid,
Art thou sore distrest?" Hym 132

and, a few lines lower, in hym 132,

"Sorrow vanquished, labor ended."

but again, in hym 81,

"By power oppressed, and mocked by pride,"

This long line givs the singer the mis- leading idea that it has elevn sylabls, the meter requiring but eight—an important fault in vers, especially if it is to be sung. The foloing wil lead the singer aright:

"By pow'r opprest, and mockt by pride,"

which Tennyson wud hav put, or perhaps:

"By pow'r oppress'd and mock'd by pride,"

Conversly, tho, when *-ed* itself is a separat sylabl it shud be preservd as a guide to the singer; as in the same hym:

"The hills their fixed seat forsake,"

NEW SPELLING

The inconsistency in spelling is explained by some of the hymns being copyrighted, liberty to use them being granted only on condition that not an iota, even in punctuation, be changed. It is in such hymns that better forms like "distress" occur. Had the compilers rectified those where they had option they would have deserved greater commendation, without a feeling of disappointment at this inconsistency and the likelihood of improvement.

CORRESPONDENCE.

EASY TO READ—AGENT-NOUNS—NOTATION

SIR: I find that your Amended Spelling is wonderfully easy to read—just as easy as common spelling. When I examine it as critic, like a proofreader, I am surprised at the multitude of words affected mostly for the better. Beforehand I could hardly have believed this possible with so little shock.

The use of *er* final as general ending for agent-nouns is new to me. It simplifies. It makes *barrister* agree in ending with *solicitor* better than with *solicitor*. I like *governor*, *visitor*, etc. I consider this a real step forward.

Your notation of orthoepy is expressive, yet so simple that it can be used by any printer. Why not restore *þ* for *th* in *thin*, as well as *ð* for *th* in *thine*?

Horseheads, N. Y.

E. McNAIR,

[The necessity for *þ* is not half as much as for *ð*; nor is *þ* equal to *ð* in legibility. Besides, "the line must be drawn somewhere."—EDITOR.]

TENNYSON'S SPELLINGS

SIR: In the *HERALD* for October, 1897, I called attention to our prose classics having instances of amended spelling as well as classic verse, specifying Carlyle. Tennyson, in his letters at any rate, did the same as in his verse. Frequent examples of this occur in *Memoirs of Tennyson* by his son (McMillan, 1898), as in vol. ii, p. 184, may be found, *tho'*, *pain'd*, *mention'd*, *call'd*, in eleven lines of large print. These forms with apostrophe omitted are the same as are found in your pages.

Toronto.

A. E. H.

FIXT SPELLING—DUBL LETTERS—K—TH

SIR: I am glad that spelling reformers at last have an organ wherein common sense prevails. New spelling must be put before people gradually, and all questions of phonetics dropped. If you enter into them, you will find that each has his own peculiarities of speech, which he would want to express in every one of his writings. As result, no two spell alike. I point to communications in *Le Maître Phonétique* as examples.

You discard double letters [almost] entirely.

In stress [stopt] syllables they have their uses and should be retained. In unstressed ones the consonant should not be doubled, as *excellent*, in which it would emphasize *e* before it and shift stress to the second syllable.

K is constant; *c* is variable. To be consistent we should drop *c*. This would yet be too radical. We could however lay down the rule that the palatal sound be represented by *c* before *a*, *o*, *u*, and by *k* before *e*, *i*. I would not change *th*, though one feels like substituting *dh* for the sound *ð*.
Meridian, Miss. (REV.) W. WILLNER.

NEWS-NOTES AND COMMENTS.

—France has a dialect society, the *Société des Parlers de France*, whose president is M. Gascon Paris, of the *Académie Française*, which is collecting legends and songs in all parts of France by means of the fonograph.

—The *Cosmopolitan* for March proposes that an artificial world-language be made. To this end it devotes \$12,000. Our own language might be made a world-language for which it is well-suited—better than any artificial tongue—but for its abominably irregular spelling, its literary dress. More about this will appear in next issue.

—Funk & Wagnalls still follow this rule in most of their publications: "Change *d* or *ed* final to *t* when so pronounced, except when the *e* affects a preceding sound." This has provoked vehement opposition from the "New York Sun," "Providence Journal," and some other papers. In "The Voice" for 11th February last, its publishers, Funk & Wagnalls, reply to several criticisms under the title, "Is Simpler Spelling a Mere Fad?" This has brought out in succeeding issues a crop of communications endorsing Simpler Spelling. In that of 3rd March, the president of the University of California, and Dr Lamb, Washington, D. C., express opinions decidedly favorable. Would it not be well for all friends of the Reform to be on the alert to reply personally to any attack on the Reform that they see in the press? Agitation is education, and a great deal of education will be necessary before this Spelling Reform will prevail against the dense prejudice and ignorance that oppose it.

WORD-REGISTER.

SPELLING AMENDED	PROPOSED ORTHOGRAPHY	COSMOPOLITAN ORTHOEPY
advance	advans	ad.vans'
and	—*	ænd
Arkansa	—	ark'an.sa' -sô'
Bismarck	—	bis'mark-
Cowper, poet	—	cūp'ər.
Dreyfus	—	dra-fūs' -fūs'
from	—	fròm
front	frunt	frənt
frontier	fruntir	frənt'ir frənt'ir
forehed	fərhed	fə'hed- fored.
Kewitsch	—	ke-witf'
Leipzig	—	laip'tsif-
Liebig	—	li'bif-
Spieser	—	sp'zər.
tsar	—	tsar, zar
Viotor	—	fr'e.tɔr-
with	wið	— wiþ
<i>Le Maître Phonétique</i>	l' me:t' r' fon-a-tik'	

*A dash (—) means "same as the preceding."

[TRIAL CORNER. "Try all, adopt the good."]

PROGRES.

De cōz ov hiūman progres haz bīn ðe dezair ov man tu imprūv hiz condision, ever maunting az, wið ðe succēs ov hiz eforts, fresh posibilitez ov imprūvment wer brōt wiðin hiz viū. It iz in ðis respect hr spēsiali dīterz from ðe brūts. Mecanical evolūision and selescion bai mur strugl for ekzistens aplai tu man in hiz rūdimenteri stat or in hiz character az an animal. Ov hiūmaniti dezair ov imprūvment iz ðe mōtiv pauer. ðer iz nō nid, ðerfor, ov impōrting ðe langwej, fast becoming a jargon, ov evolūision intu aur jenral trītment ov histori. Biz, ants, and biverz ar marvelz ov natyur in ðar wa. But ða shō nō dezair for imprūvment, and mak nō efort tu imprūv. Man alon aspairz. Aspirasion iz wik in lōer resez ov men, strong in ðe haier. Ov its ekzistens, and ov ðe difrent degrīz in hwich it ekzists, saiens ma bī abl tu giv an acaunt. But it sertnli iz not ði ofspring ov unrīzon, nor can it bī aded in eni wa bai siūperstision or bai eni rejecscion ov trūth.—GOLDWIN SMITH in *Guesses at the Riddle of Existence*, p. 32.

BUTNZ, MUNI AND SPELING.

Wī continyu tu war butnz on ðe baks ov aur cōts becōz, it iz sed, at wun taim butnz wer faund convīnient in holding up ðe sord-belt; sertnli butnz in such a plēs cannot nau bī defended īder bai yūtiliti or bai ði artistic canon ðat wī ma hav "ornamental constrūcion" but never "constructed ornament." Wī perzist in yūzing an ōkward complicasion ov wats and mezyurz, insted ov a far mōr convīnient desīmal sistem, and wī dū it for ðe sam rīzon ðat ðe British hōld tenasiosli tu ðar įkwoli ōkward muniteri sistem ov paundz, shilingz and pens. Wī defend aur historic orthografi wið ol its absurditiz, and wī rezist wið enerjī tvn ðe slaitest mūvment in ðe direcsion ov reform. De rīzon for ol ðiz enerjetic rezistensez iz ðe simpl fact ðat in hiūman natyur ðer iz a fundamantal element ðat refiūzez tu bī mūvd tu inovasion bai a simpl preponderens ov rīzon, but iz inclaind ever tu insist ðat ðe last obstacl tu cheuj shal ferst bī remūvd. It woz ðis element hwich Shakspr rediūst tu ðe wel-nōn aforizm conserning aur reluctens tu abandon ði ilz wī hav.—CHA'S K. ADAMS, prezident ov ði Yūniversiti ov Wisconsin, in *The Forum*, Sept., '96, p. 76.

NOTES ON WORDS.

Impruve, etc.—The selections "Progres" and "Butnz" hav been chosen becaus containing a large number of words with ū. Now, ū and u, tho mates, ar les widely separated in our tung than other pairs. This explains perhaps why difrent peopl vary in pronunciation from ū to u. Even the same individual wil at one time uze u, at another, ū in the very same word. While u and ū, then, may be discriminated when desired, it is believed that the list of words is small wherin use of u for both ū and u wud caus confusion. Such change does not alter word-forms. With those in the selections compare: human, impruv, impruvment, viū, bruts, evolusion, rudimenteri, hiūmaniti, truth, yutiliti, du, yuzing, muvment, refiūzez, muvd, remuvd, rediust, Yūniversiti, siuperstision.

With.—Tho wið is the pronunciation in favor with authoritis, yet wīp is a good second, and is quite comon when afected by a voiceles consonant. Wīp is univērsal in Charleston, S. C., acording to Prof. S. Primer, who (in *Phonetische Studien*, Band i, s. 242) says: "The older voiceles sound [p] of th in *with* prevails here, wið never being herd. In all other cases þ and ð conform to genral uzage thruout the entire lard." His words apēar to imply that wīp is a survival from a time in hwich wīp prevaild.

-sion.—When i comes before a vowel it remains i if folod by a sylabl with high stres, othewise (that is, when preceded by a sylabl with high stres) i tends to y, and becomes y in colloquial always. The word is thus shortend a sylabl. The foloing vowel, too, becomes æ. Thus, *Christianity* is cristi.æn'i.ti-; *Christian* is crīsty^{æn}., colloquial, crīsty^{æn}. (strictly, crīsty^{æn}.) Now, in our language, the ending *sion* or *tion* is always preceded by a sylabl with high stres. *-sion* tends to syon, (strictly, sy^{æn}), or sy^{æn} (strictly, sy^{æn}). This s-y^{æn} is nearer the true sound than s-h^{æn}, and so we see no sufficient reason to change si to sh—but the revers.

KEY:— II—ORTHOGRAFY.
a e æ i i o ô o u ū ū
as in at all ale ill eel nor gnawer no up put do
art err not lawn
DIFTHONGS: au ai oi in in
as in now my boy cure Hugh.
☞ For fuller explanation see the red cover

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