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# The Fonetic Herald

DEVOTED TO ORTHOPI AND ORTHOGRAFI.

1<sup>ST</sup> YER. PORT HOPE, CANADA, APRIL, 1885. N<sup>O</sup> 4.

PORT HOPE —The High School Literary and Debating Society had an animated debate recently on the subject 'Wud a fonetic system ov speling be advantageo.us!' The *Guide* sez: 'The afirmativ was argued by Messrs Armstrong, Allen and Philp, the negativ by Messrs. Muldrew, Salter and Williamson. The subject was very ably handld by both sides. The decision was givn in favor ov the afirmativ. — Let ther be more ov this. The yung "see it" at a glance; so far at least az tu get at the drift ov the matr, indicating the proper sound by the shape ov the letr representing it. . . . .

..... "A German" writes tu the *Times* on 'Amended Speling.' He sez German Speling iz very simpl compar'd with ours. Theirs iz so simpl that they hav no need ov a pronouncing dictionary their use ov the letrz being so uniforn that the words indicate their pronounciation. Az matr ov fact, ther ar no pronouncing dictionaries thruout Germany. He draws a humorous picture ov how we ar always lerning speling from our earliest years—dictation and much els being but speling in disguise and c.not 'spel then!!! Our future tea hers in Model and Normal training schools ar stil lerning tu spell and when they take charge ov a school hav a ..ebster tied tu their elbow while adults everywhere when writing an ordinary letr must consu t ther n.b r s. tu whether ther ar two l'z in this or a silent e in that word! while their n.bur telz them rong haf the timell

Mr. T. R. VICKROY, Ph.D., ov 2933 Dickson Street, St. Louis, Mo., iz an indefatigabl worker in simplifying orthograpy. During 1884, by corespondence, he sought tu find out on what al

fabet Americans wud agree tu unite. The result he propozd tu an unce. exemplify and comemorate in a litt volume ov 'Literary Gems' being selections by thoz who had contributed toward making such alfabet. It iz now in pres. From advans sheets we lern that it wil be a 12 vowel alfabet. The 7 vowels following wil be uzed with the same fundamental valyuz a. we hav so far employd them: a, a, a. e, i, o, u. For long e, both the script and printed form wil be 'e,' capital 'E.' Long i wil hav a separat (13th) letr: 'i,' which wil hav 'A' inst. d ov 'F,' az capital —

In place ov  $\begin{matrix} O & \Theta & U & \bar{U} \\ \text{thor will be uzed} & \Theta & \Omega & \text{D} & W \end{matrix}$  respectively. The ound ov u. az in *nut*, iz very frequently represented by o, (az in *come, done, love*.) This iz we believ, the reason for prefering an o shape for it insted ov 'U.' The alfabet propozez six new consonants; also separat signs for the difthongs in *owl* and *boy*. The alfabet must be considered on trial, and that on its own merits. So we consider the alfabet we presented at Coburg in October. While objecting tu the shapes  $\bar{U}$ ,  $\Omega$ ,  $\bar{W}$ . az a clas. which may be call'd the indented letrz we shal not preudge it but for the present, simply announs its appearans.

'SILENT LETRZ.'—The vers in this ishuv we clipt from the *Labor Union* ov Hamilton Ont. in which Mr. R. Fielder, ov Montreal edited every week a column ov amended speling.

ADVOCATE: ov speling by sound do wel tu recolect the first two-thirds (all ov it for that matr) ov the folowing motto: *In things essential, unity; in things doubtful, liberty; in all things, charity.*

We hav recently been privilejd tu examin an undoutedly genuin copy ov a work printed in the erly part ov Queen Elizabeth's reign. We make sum extracts and giv coments tharon. It iz printed partly in the o'd blak letz, which about disapeard with the Tudors, partly in the old-fash'nd Roman letz ov that day. While the blak-letz was abandond in Britain, it was continyud thruout Germany and iz tu this day more prevalent thar than the Roman characters, or thoz we employ. We can, ov cors, only imitate the shapes ov the letz in the Roman parts alone; which we do by puting it in what the printers ov tu day cali 'old style'. The book iz a thik quarto, and iz a small part ov a state-and church controversy on church government between Dr. John Whitgifi, afterward Archbishop ov Canterbury, and Rev. Thomas Cartwright, the celebrated Puritan. It iz entitld:

THE DEFENSE of the Aunsvvere to the Admonition, against the Replie of T. C. BY IOHN VVHITGIFT, Doctor of Diuinitie. Printed at London by Henry Binneman, for Humfrey Toye. Anno 1574.

"Onlie let vs be diligent in our vocation: earnest against all kinde of enimies: feruent in prayers for the preferuation of the Queenes maiestie, and for the peace of the Church, vvith the good successe of the Gospell: and vigilant that errors be not published vvithout controlement: and, God vvil ere it be long, (if our finnes deferue not the contrarie) giue peace to this church, as he hath done to other disturbed in like manner." [Preface.]

"Those things vvich be not vvriten, but kepte by tradition, vvich are obserued through the vvhole vvorld, are tu be vnderstanded, either to be deliuerd vnto vs, from the Apostles themselues, or else decreed by generall Councils vvhose autoritie is greate in the Church, as that vve yerely vvith solemnitie celebrate the pafion of the Lorde, and his refurection, his ascention into heauen, and the comming of the holy Ghost, and if there be any other thing that is obserued of the vvhole Church." [P. 103.]

*Defense.*—Had later orthografers speld the word by simply omiting the silent *e* at end, it wud hav been betr. This wud giv *defens* insted ov the longer *defence*, and be nearer the derivation, Latin *defensum*. It iz stil, and properly, often speld *defense*; while 'defensible' and 'defensive' ar alone proper.

*Aunsvvere.*—Our present speling has been got by changing long tu crooked *s*, omiting *u* and *e*, and having a singlar type, *w*, insted ov dubling the *v* z (then calld *yu*, whens our name dubl-yu.)—Betr stil tu go farther in the same direction ov simplifying and shortening so az tu spel it *ansr*.

*Replie.*—If we now speld it *repli*, but with a stroke in place ov the dot over the *i*, 't wud be nearer the old than the modern *reply*. The plural we stil hav iz *replies*.

*IOHN. Maiestie, etc*—Ther was no *Jj* until about 1650. *It* was uzel insted.

*Humfrey* iz speld sensibly with *f* insted ov *ph*.

*Onlie.*—Tu spel this word 'onli' is les ov an inovation than the modern 'only.' We stil hav pet names and diminutives ending in *ie*, az *Neillie*, *Eddie*, *dollie*; and such is stil the regular ending for the sound, and its cognate long *e*, in French words, az *Marie*, *Julie*, *folie* (folly.) This recent habit ov ending a word

with *y* iz only a bad fashon we hav crept intu. Furthermore, in keeping it up, we ar but wearing the old cast-of clothes ov the French tung. They formerly speld many words with *y*. (az *Roy*, king *foy*, faith; now, *Roi*, *foi*;) but they hav abandond it; while stil, and properly, keeping it in certain derivativz, for exampl, *royaume*, kingdom.

*Vs, fervent, give*, etc.—*V* and *u* wer different shapes uzed for *v* and *u*; but they wer not usid each for each until about 1630. Before that, *u* often stud for *v*, and *v* for *u*. Yu reader, do the same tu-day with other letz, custom blinding yu tu it. Exampl: in *persuade* and *assuage* yu use *u* for sound ov *v*, and, *vice versa* *w* for *u*, az in *howl*; the latr being betr speld with *ou* az in *house*. In like maner, yu hav: *g* for *j*, and *j* for *y*, and *y* for *i*, and *c* for *s*, and *ch* for *k*, besides others. If they wisely simfild—the whole matr iz one ov simplification—matr in 1630 by giving tu *u* and *v* definit and fixt valyuz and aded the needed new letz as *W* and *J*; so shud we in 1885 giv definit valyuz tu thoz we hav in use, and ad the necessary new ones.

*Gospell, generall*, etc.—We hav dropt one ov the final letz in these and like words. Why do we stil dub them in 'shal,' 'will,' and a host ov others?—Why, indeed! They ar no more necessary than a fifth wheel tu a coach. We do not dub them in many compound words, az fulfil.

*Give*.—After 1630, this word began tu be speld 'give,' and the final silent *e* became *u* eles. Yet it haz been kept ever sins! Before 1630 it was needed tu show that *u* had the consonant power *v*. With the change in 1630, it shud hav been dropt. Many ov our myriad silent letz ar such miserabl excrescences az this.

*Queenes*.—The possessiv, for *Queen s*.

*Sinnes*.—Why did not our forefathers chance at once tu 'sinz'?

*Kepte*.—Wear thankful for the modern omission ov *e*. Let us apply the pruning-knife stil more. (Omit it from *else*, *sense*, and a thousand other words.)

*Solemnitie, authoritie*.—Short *i*, at the end ov a word, was, az a rule, denoted by *ie*: thus they wud spel *pitte*

what we now spel *pity*, but at the same time with *pity* we hav *pitiab* e. pitiful, pitying, piteous. It wud hav been much simpler and more uniform tu hav dropt the final *e* alone, and then we hav 'piti,' 'pitiful,' 'pitius,' etc.

*Thofc*.—Ov the two forms ov *s*, the crooked form haz survived. The long shape lasted until the erly part ov this century.

*Comming*.—Let us be thankful for not being compeld tu dub the *m*

*Church, churche*. It was then nothing uncomon tu hav the same word speld diferent y on the same page.

*O*.—Obzerv that the *o's* ar almost circular. In the original they ar more nearly so than in our imitation.

DISTRIBUTION.—A singl copy ov this paper weighs only one-seventh ov an ounce. It can then be enclodz in most letz without increas ov postage. It wil then speak for itself and at the same time furnish an explanation and reason for any Amended Speling the writer may chooz tu use. Thoz who wil get up a club in a school can hav 20 copiz monthly tu one adres for \$1 per year. This is only 5-cents a year per copy. Any one interested can thus keep many abreast ov the projected change without its being felt az a tax.

BAD ORTHO:PY.—It iz not so much the slang that shud be deprecated it iz the careless pronunciation on this side ov the Atlantic. In nothing iz Herbert Spencer's rebuke ov the hasty way in which everything iz done more relevant than in the habit ov rapid pronunciation. It iz no minor matr. Even the ideal loving Mr. Ruskin mentions somewhere that clear definit utterance iz a mark ov a gentleman. The best evidence ov progres on this continent wil be when we pay more attention tu teaching our children how tu pronounce.—*Toronto World*. [This iz easy and practicabl only with a simpl, yet efectual, alfabet capabl ov noting the chief diferenses ov the vowel sounds: otherwize it iz an everlasting thuming ov standard dictionaries, with meagr results. Speling by sound iz indeed a royal road tu lerning accurat pronunciation.—Ed.]

[8 new (vowel) letz used.]

## SILENT LETRZ.

O! Hou it puts ME in a rej  
 Tu SE upon the printed paj  
 So meni silent letrz:

The nufhing du but blok the we  
 And tu the utherz planli se:

'WE think ourselvz yur betrz  
 Yu ar the comon wurkiñ men  
 And WE the jentel 'uper ten'

Hu kep yu in yur pleasez.  
 And so the sit and grimli smil  
 Tu SE thar feloz slav and toil  
 And never kik the tresez.

'Tiz sed the cum ov nobl blud  
 And meni wish it understud

Ther'z nufhing lo about them  
 WE no the clam iz el a fred,  
 But stil the nashun'z over-ød

And wil not du without them  
 Soevri yer ther'z milionz spent  
 Tu kep them just fer ornament

Bi fulz hu gretli priz them.  
 But if the counted up the cost  
 In cash and tim and labor lest  
 F'mshur it wud surpriz them.

So spred the truth & mak it non  
 'Til even children wizer gron

KEY: - Pronounce the following letrz like the *italic* in the word under each:  
 Qa Aa Qe Ae Ee li ti Qə Oo Oo Uu Uu Uu  
 ar at ale ell eel ill I nor not note nut truth put

Optional contractions: q f r yu, u for yu, as mqtual, mutual; actqal, actual.

~~Q~~ In writing, the shape Ee is made thus: Ee.

THE FONETIC HERALD iz pu'lishd monthly (except July and Aug.) It iz devoted tu PRONUNCIATION and the elucidation and exemplification ov the *simplicity and practicability* ov amending our ORTHOGRAPHY so az tu spel by *sound* aproximatly insted ov by *memory*. Price: 2 copiz, 25 cents a year; 5 copiz, 50 c.; 12 for \$1. Az soon az circulation wil warrant, its size wil be dubld and price 25 c. a year. Thoz who take several copiz shud distribute them.— Adres *Phonetic Herald*, Port Hope, Ontario. British or U. S. stamps taken.

Wil cast asid thez fetrz;  
 Then Inglishmen the wurld  
 el round

Wil spei, lik men ov sens, bi  
 sound,  
 And hav no silent letrz.

~~Q~~ Wñ ar the capital and smel-lettr formz propozd and jenerali acsepted fer the last ov the 3 soundz in the wurd 'sing', hwich iz compozd o: s i and ñ. N and g in curent speliñ ar but an expedient fer reprezentin a singl sound that, el orthoepists agre tu consed, shud hav a singl lettr tu reprezent it. WE emplei it ecsepshunali onli, becöz it iz a consonant and the vowel soundz, much mor urjentli than eni consonant, ned separat letrz. Not onli hav orthoepists agreed that it iz but a singl sound: speliñ reformrz ar yunanimus that 'ñ' iz the best shap fer it. Uther examplz ar found in the curent and past ishuz ov the HERALD.