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# The Herald.

DEVOTED TO PRONUNCIATION AND AMENDED SPELLING.

VOL. II, 22.

TORONTO, CANADA, April, 1902.

N<sup>R</sup>. 72.

## 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 unsentimental, 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

not need it one-twentieth as much as do ours. We ar asleep: they ar up and doing, their publishers redy to issue new scoolbooks so that the next generation shall be in the van, while we hug the chains that retard and hold us captiv.

—"The New Snobishnes" is an articl of two pages by Ogier Rysden in the Westminster Review for September—a reply to "Pronuncia'n and Midl-Clasdom" in the March number, referd to on our p. 77. Lady Grote givs a feebl rejoinder in the October number.

—The basis of Orthograpy (Pronunciation, Analogy, Derivation), postulated by plank 7 of our Platform, receivs noteworthy confirmation by Murray's N. E. Dict'y which (under ax) says: "The spelng ax is beter on evry ground, of etymology, fonology, and analogy, than axe, which has of late become prevalent." As varios forms of the word ar givn as speld in difrent centuries, we infer that historic orthoepy is ment by fonology. Consistency implies Analogy. Any system of spelng to be consistent in its parts has these parts correspond by Analogy, which if absent wud giv capricios, whimsical and inconsistent wordforms—all of which, tho a truism to most, needs to be rubd in to others.

—fəŋ<sup>gus</sup> (not fəŋ<sup>gēs</sup>) for *fungus* is how it is herd by Mr E. B. Thornton, of Addison, N. Y., in Steuben co., near the Pennsylvania border. Faint u and e in weak sylabls deserv study.

—A Harmony of the Gospels, ritn in an alfabet of about forty letters, is in preparation by Dr T. B. Welch, Philadelphia, for publication.

—Officers for 1902 of the Chicago Spelling Reform Asoc'n ar Pres't Dr Samuel Willard, Vice-pres'ts E. O. Vaile, H. R. Boss, J. M. Mott, Recording Sec'y-Tres. G. D. Broomell, Corresponding Sec'y O. C. Blackmer, Oak Park, Ill. With these "most potent, grave and reverend seniors" as officers we expect action deliberat and wise, so that the cronicl wil hav no tale to tel of the rash and ill-judged work by yung neofytes in their mis-directed, over-zelos haste.

—The English Dialect Dictionary, 4700 pages in six vol's, edited by Prof. J. Wright, wil be finisht in 1905. Four volumes ar redy.

—"Dhi Niu Ira Primur" is under way by Mr Blackmer. He objects that the word-method of teaching reading prevails in his part of the world. The fonic method prevails in Ontario, thanks to Mr Hughes, inspector of public scools in Toronto. A method beter than either is desired. Mr B's "Niu Ira Primur" wil offer to suply the want, and leav the pupil with a regular New Spelling, alredy lernd, so simpl that he wil naturally argue for its adoption, and hasten its advent.

—Mr H. Drummond's "Contributions to the Jurnal ov Orthoepy and Orthograpy for 1901" ar reprinted in a neat pamphlet of 31 pages 16mo, and has efectiv papers on and in reformd spelng. They serv as amunition, and shud be used so, especially by Britishers. Mr D. wil furnish a copy in anser to requests adrest him at Laburnum Hous, Hetton-le-Hole, Durham co., Eng.

—The natural or "Direct Method" of aquirng languages spreads rapidly all over Europ and consists of (1) an ORAL part, aquisition of colloquial comand of a givn language, with corect pronunciation from the very begining by a fonic system (IFA's); gramar aquired inductively with the main difrence that it folos (insted of precedes) the oral part. (2) A LITERARY part, or composition, reading, literature.

—*Past* and *passed* ar a source of trubl to some spellers. A querist was anserd (Pitman's Jurnal, 8 Feb.) that p-a-s-s-e-d is a verb, p-a-s-t is an adjectiv, adverb, or noun. This wud require

that our spelng be ever "sicklid o'er with the pale caste of thought" (Hamlet) insted of "coming by nature" as Dogberry tho:t it shud. Don't stop to think and rinkl yur brow but put p-a-s-t evry time as did Tennyson revisiting Cambridge when he rote (In Memoriam, lxxxvii):

"I past beside the reverend walls  
In which of old I wore the gown ;"

—*Elements of Experimental Fonetics* is a book (to cost \$5) in preparation by Prof. E. W. Scripture (Yale), who in 1901 publisht (price, \$1) some of his work in machine fonetics as *Studies from the Yale Psychological Laboratory*, vol. vii, 1899. In it, his main conclusions relate to the structure of English as compared with Greek or Latin vers in which vext questions of quantity ar involvd. A sylabl's strength (s) depends on or is a complex function (f) of three elements: its length or duration (d), its intensity (i), and its pitch (p). The essential change in clasic Greek vers is pitch (p) only perhaps, said to be so now in typical Japanese vers. Latin vers is essentially a time-vers, the chief distinction among sylabls being length (d) in addition, of cours, to change in speech-sounds. In our vers, then, we hav a varying combination exprest mathematically by  $s = f(d, i, p)$ .

—"I am in no way responsibl for Americanisms in spelng." So rites Dr Tho's Oliver, of Newcastle-on-Tyne, translater of Bouchard's *Lectures on Auto-Intoxication in Disease*, in p. xii of preface, publisht by F. A. Davis, Philadelphia. His disclaimer forms our text. We regret to find Englishmen ever chusing the worse insted of the beter. As if by instinct, they do so much of that in spelng and a thousand other things that, when it comes to competition or race, lo! they lose the start, and so ar apt to lose the race. When one sees them handicapt and clogd, he is redy to exclaim "Surely an enemy hath done this!" Inquiry reveals that their clogs ar due to their own stubborn folly. Much has hapnd within four years. Dr O. need not hav been so anxios to put himself right (rong, rather) in this. Let him adopt, not disclaim, real advances that comerd themselvs by merit. Let him imitate or adopt the attitude, liberality and spirit of his townsman who givs "A Handsome Donation" to aid the car of progres, not to mention others litl farther afield who work consistently and stedily to help remove this international (or especially British) stumbling-blok and disgrace to erth's noblest language and literature.

—Reminiscences by our veteran friend appear as a pamphlet of nine pages, a d-print from Jurnal ov Orthoepy and Orthograpy, entitled a *History ov Spelling Reform* as connected with E. Jones, 1 Dalton road, Liscard, Liverpool, Eng. Amid much els, "Prof. March acted not quite fairly in forsing his oan very crude skeem on the Conferens [ov 1876] and on the Asosiashon without discusson."

#### A HANDSOME DONATION.

THE HERALD has friends who esteem it an earnest and far-reaching mouth-piece, tho small, and in many ways they help it, or, rather, the movement it voices, as by *work* (and all can work wel, prudently, and in line), by wise *counsel* and by *money*. Some friends ar such strong trinitarians as to help in all three ways, and withal ar so modest as not to alow publication of their help, satisfied to see good work go on. Others ar inactive, or uncertn, unitarians. Recently THE HERALD had a donation of £10 (\$48.60) from an unexpected source,

G. B. Hunter, Esq., of Swan and Hunter, ship-builders, Newcastle-on-Tyne. Mr H. visited America last winter in connexion with establishment of a faster transatlantic steamship service. Mr Hunter we take to be a public-spirited cosmopolite of liberal views. In gratitude for human progress in the past, won amid many a set-back thru strenuous perseverance, sacrifice and even martyrdom, our benefactor has made this thank-offering for benefits enjoyed by helping on the car of progress in the spirit of words Lowel puts in Cromwel's mouth:

"So speaks that inward voice which never yet Spake falsely, when it urged the spirit on To noble emprise for country and mankind. And, for success, I ask no more than this,— To bear unflinching witness to the truth. All true whole men succeed; for what is worth Success's name, unless it be the thought, The inward surety, to have carried out A noble purpose to a noble end, Although it be the gallows or the block?"

We intend to divide the gift equally in help to four objects that now appear to require it more or less urgently:

(1) Converting proofreaders by putting all such whose addresses we can get or that may be sent us on THE HERALD's mailing list for two or three years, trusting their conversion may lead to practice and use of Preferred Spellings especially (as those on p. 86 and others). We have appealed to publishers and the public generally to the neglect of proofreaders who are autocrats in spelling, each in his own office, and whom compositers obey, willingly or not. Even publishers and the public have little to say as to wordforms, thru indifference. Proofreaders have intelligence, which, when they stop to reason, should lead aright.

(2) Provide an easy and effectual way of teaching the analysis and synthesis of words to children especially—a problem not yet satisfactorily solved, and of paramount importance to steady progress—and so raise a generation bred to better ways.

(3) Extending our general circulation. 100 workers each judiciously distributing 100 copies of every issue would give a circulation of 10,000, five times what it is now.

(4) Ad \$12.15 to our type-fund.

WITH THE LINGUISTS.

Actual workers and thinkers in linguistics are ever touching questions within THE HERALD's purview. Some of these matters have deep interest and bearing for us.

Dr Sweet (*Le Maître Phonétique*, Dec'r last) has an important contribution upon Mixed Vowels. Amid much else, the

RELATION OF VOWEL IN *up* TO  $\Lambda$  comes in for this statement (with  $\Lambda$  used as he does for the vowel commented on):

"I have for some time been puzzled by a wide va-

riety of the English vowel in *up* [Ap], which I think now is my own natural pronunciation. It is not the lo-mixt-wide vowel, which formerly was the only place I could find for it. I now find it the outform of the vowel in *father*, from which it is obtained by simply moving the tang forward into the mid of the mouth, preserving the slope of the tang. The first element of the diphthong in 'eye' seems to be the same vowel."

We believe Sweet's pronunciation of *father* to be  $\text{fo}\delta^{\circ}$  in our notation. We find  $\Lambda$  in

above a custom came dabl Dutch encourage  
frant inductiv instruction mach maftd number  
one ather pronunciation pazl resalt substitute  
stady sach same andoutedly ander.

In it we remark that  $\Lambda$  occurs before *r* but once (*encourage*), and then a vowel immediately follows *r*. In case of *r* + consonant, Dr Sweet (who drops such *r*) uses held  $\text{ə}$  ( $\text{ə}$ ) instead of  $\Lambda$  (as  $\text{w}\text{ə}:\text{k}$ , *work*) in

observ first disturbing further he(a)rd.

If  $\Lambda$  is the "wide variety" of the vowel in *up*,  $\text{ə}$ : must be very near the close variety. The pairing of the vowel in *up* with that in *no* has been least satisfactory of any. Should it be found to pair best with *a*-vowels, a troublesome hitch is replaced by a solution comparatively simple.

When the Modern Language Association met at Cambridge, Mas., just after Christmas, its president, Prof. Sheldon, spoke on "Practical Filology." Now, revision of wordforms is a focus to which converge about all that is practical in filology. The *New York Nation* (Jan. 9) says Prof. S. "emphasized the linguist's relation to grammar and dictionary, cautioning even him against neglecting the dictates of custom which establish somewhat different standards from those expected in a natural development of language. The filologist recognizes evolution of linguistic forms; he must still acknowledge as must every educated person

THE CLAIMS OF FASION.

Prof. S. expressed a wish for broader recognition in dictionaries of both natural and acquired forms of spoken language, and deplored in strongest terms any conflict between the filologist and his sometime literary antagonist. (Aplaus)."

The *Nation* (Jan 9) gave too an account of a paper by Prof. Thomas (Columbia) on

AMELIORATION OF SPELLING.

He brot forward no radical scheme, he posed as no self-satisfied leader in a great movement but poked fun at extremists on both sides; he presented the anomalies and absurdities of our present cacographic mode and aded one practical suggestion: educate common-school teachers in the

HISTORY OF SPELLING;

how astounding and absurd anomalies grew up, and the senselessness of preserving what has long become outgrown and useless. Such plan would bring realization of

the unnecessary burden on yung and old of what we call with unperceivd sarcasm our 'orthografy,' and hasten the time when even scoolboys wud asist us in rebeling against the illiteracy in form of a great civilized language. Prof. T. calld atention to the U. S. copyright law requiring books to be put in type in this cuntry to obtain copyright. It is responsibl for much

BRITISH INSTED OF AMERICAN SPELING where the latter is simpler. The caos, so brot in a small way, may asist to make evident the burden, and eventually help to thro it off."

Prof. Hempl of the state university at Ann Arbor, Mich., had something on

#### GREAT-LAKE SPEECH

or that prevalent in the region of the great lakes of North America. These inland waterways ar fast becoming in the New World what the Mediteranean (mid-erth) was in the Old World. The nations trading around that ramifying inland sea had to select a world-language (Greek) as a comon medium of intercour. Of this the Septuagint version of the Old Testament and the Greek New T. ar literary monuments. So the language of the Great-Lakes region is going to be a dominant world-language. This givs a reason why its speech deservs especial atention. In *Le Maitre Phonetique*, July, 1900, Hempl makes these statements as to speech in the region: (1) My r is practicaly the same no mater what its position. (2) wh before front vowels is bilabial f (f), thus, *which* is *fitf*; before bak vowels wh is m, as *mot* for *what*. (3) Short o (o) is ofn unrounded, as *not* *not*, *hot*<sup>er</sup> *hotter*; and sometimes lengthend, as *on* *on*, *hot* *hot*. (4) Old æ in *last*, *path*, *aurt*, has not become a: or a: but is more open than short æ in *bat*. (5) Strest ns, nþ, hav become nts, ntþ, as hents *hence*, wants *once*, mantþ *month*. (6) u, i, o, e, ar the vowels in *you*, *see*, *old*, *Abe*; while the difthongs in *now*, *my*, *boy*, as their final element hav weak o, e, a, insted of u, i, i, or weak u, i, i, comonly givn. (7) The glottal stop (ʔ) is herd initialy before the hevily strest vowel of an emfatic word. We asent to the first, third, fourth, fifth and sevnth statements; for wh we hear hw (sometimes m) with h of cours modified by pursing (or els pouting) of the iner oral sfincter (the *orbicularis oris* must) far short of making it a voiceles bilabial. For u, i, o, e, we hear but monofthongs, unles from position (as ending a sentence) ther is nothing for the tens vokal organs to relax on. Then u<sup>w</sup>, i<sup>w</sup>, o<sup>w</sup>, e<sup>w</sup>, ar herd, as explaind by Evans (*HERALD*, vol. i, p. 198). Difthongs in *now*, *my*, *boy*, (all trocaic) *may* hav weak o, e, as their second elements. Foren tungs hav

ao in some proper names (as *Kiaochau*, *Nanaw*, *Maori*, and Italian *Paolo* for *Paul*) in which geografic boards ar at pains to explain that "ao difers slightly from au," or a<sup>o</sup> is a<sup>u</sup> nearly. Again, final e in a weak, open sylabl is apt to become i, as san<sup>di</sup> for san<sup>de</sup>i, or san<sup>de</sup>i. *Sunday*. Hence, trocaic œ, œ, in *my*, *boy*, may be hardly distinguishabl from ai, oi. Indeed, these ar but the Latin forms (Æ, œ, where Æ is weak e) for Old Latin ai, to say nothing of Greek ai, oi, late ai, oi. So these two varieties of difthongs exist side by side as they did over 2000 years ago. (Æ, œ, and œ, œ, ar post-classical and comparatively late). All these points deserv farther observation, in which machine fonetics shud help. The personal equation in the presnt case may hav important influence: Hempl (professer of English filology and genral linguistics since 1889) was born at Whitewater, Wis., in 1859, but brot up at Battle Creek, Mich. With this as a basis his speech has been modified by the rather cosmopolitan speech of university circls, especially at Ann Arbor (B. A., '79). After that, study was continued at Göttingen, Tübingen, Strassburg, Jena (Ph. D. in 1889) and Berlin. He holds that his observations on difthongization ar tru of suthern Michigan, most of N. York state, northern Ohio, Wisconsin, and elsewhere, tho ai and au stil prevail in eastern New York.

Prof. Grandgent (*Ger. & Eng. Sounds*, §20) says that u, o, e, i, hav diversity of pronunciation before r; not before r,

"When over-long or long ar difthongs . . . . When haf-long or short, they ar uzually (in America at least) simpl vowels rather than difthongs." [Prof. G. was brot up in Boston and Cambridge; his mother was from western Massachusetts, his father (French by birth) was bred in Philadelphia — *DIALECT NOTES*, vol. i, p. 199.]

#### AMERICAN O IN *not*.

That the vowel in *not* is an a-sound so very comonly in America receivd ampl confirmation by Mr Tuttle (New Haven, Conn.) and Prof. Hempl in *Le Maitre Phonetique* during 1900 and 1901. They uze an a-sign in the strest sylabls of:

adopt body colleg common compensate complement consonant doctor drop fore (ig)n follow glottal (gnomic hollow (h)onor horrid hot knowledge metropolis modify monofthong not observe of on possib proper sorry stop what (also hwet and hwet by Mr T.)

For fuller explanation and Platform see cover of Annual of New Speling (postpaid, 10 c.) publisht evry July as archives of each year.

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