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The Herald.

DEVOTED TO PRONUNCIATION AND AMENDED SPELLING.

VOL. II, 38. TORONTO, CANADA, April-June, 1906. N^o. 88.

GOVERNMENT *VERSUS* ACADEMY.

(Amendment in French Spelling cont'd from p. 159.)

Unfortunately the Academy had not been consulted. It was up in arms at once. Jeremiads were heard about ruin impending over the sacred tongue of Boileau and Racine if mere outsiders—politicians at that—were to be allowed to work their wicked will. The minister of Education had his hands strengthened by general approval. The Commission was instructed to arrange a compromise. We shall see if the Academy accepts its report with inevitable grumbling.

Filology has to move with the times. It is vain to attempt by academic bulwarks to oppose natural evolution in a living tongue. Language tends to simplify itself, and succeeds, save in so far as the deliberate act of academic authorities restrains. A general tendency among educated classes withstands this simplification—really due to the deplorable habit of reading, manifested much less in conversation than in writing. We talk simpler, less grammatically, than we write.

In England we have to manage these things for ourselves—printers and schoolmasters follow the crowd. Once it was the same in France. Malherbe, whom the French deify, sent inquirers about French words to the street-porters at Port au Foin, saying they were his masters in language. Since the Academy imposed itself on the nation, simplification has been less easy—else unnecessary complications of genders and eccentricities of spelling would have disappeared long ago. Yet German is not free from these troubles, and needed the masterful Kaiser's authority to sanction reforms.

Alteration in the language of great and beloved writers is a little painful. That is why in these days of the printing press, right languages alter slowly. We can still read Shakespeare and Milton with perfect comprehension, though we might not understand them in the street. "Down hill too fast needs the drag," but this French Government reform quite accords with the natural evolution of language. If the Academy continues to obstruct—well, "So much the worse for the cow."

—This asks *you* to subscribe and so help to reach the circulation aimed at—10,000.

OFFICIAL RECOGNITION.

NATIONAL

The Official Gazette (e of the U. S. Patent Office (800 to 1000 pages weekly) gives abstracts and announcements of 400 to 600 patents granted weekly. Chemic terms appear as recommended by Assoc'n for Advancement of Science. Exampls from a recent issue: *oxid, sulfid, sulfate, chlorid.*

STATE

In N. Y. state, education is administered by a Commissioner and Board of Regents at Albany. Thrice a year uniform examination papers, covering over fifty subjects including spelling, are sent simultaneously to all public and registered private (mostly shorthand and business) schools of academic grade. Right answers go to Albany for final inspection and award. Promotion is based largely on these reports, and Regents certificates are accepted in lieu of examination by nearly all schools and colleges in this and many other states. Mr Melvil Dewey was long secretary of Regents:—then, *program, hight*, and others were mandatory; now, *The Century* dictionary is used, but spellings in any good dictionary [that is, Preferred Spellings] are accepted. So, N. Y. state puts no obstacle to reform. E. T.

NEWS-NOTES AND COMMENTS.

—A Message for 1906: The world will pause to heed too spelling reform until reformers strive to agree on the strict line of natuur rather than too disagree on the endless line of art.—Henry Woollen, Ipswich, England.

—A HERALD Greeting: Wun krowded our ov industrius life iz wurth an aje without a name. With hartiest Greetingz and Best Wishes for a Happy Krismas and a Joyus New Year, from Mr and Mrs H. Drummond, Laburnum Hous, Hetton-le-Hole. Krismas, 1905.

—Mr G. W. Wishard, New York, pays to have two copies of THE HERALD sent during 1906 to all reading-rooms of Y. M. C. A. and Y. W. C. A. in N. Y. city and Brooklyn. 28 in number. Who will do likewise? Who will keep an eye on these reading-rooms thruout the year as he does to see that the little mission finds place where it can be seen and do its work? To publish without fulfilment of purpose is Love's Labor Lost—"no money in it."

—The International Congress of Americanists meets biennially (New York, 1902; Stuttgart, 1904), and this year in Quebec city, 10 to 15th Sept. Dr N. E. Dionne, librarian of the legislative assembly at Quebec, is general secretary. Mem-

bers pay \$3 fee, associates \$1. All history is cognate with literary wordforms or spelling.

—HERALD receipts in 1900 : Drummond \$4.85, E. Jones, Werner, Thornton, Kimball, Lyon, \$1 each, Marriot, Wishard, Tuttle, Cameron, Boss, Welch, Price, \$0.25 each, small sums \$0.14—Total \$11.74.

—Our right address is, THE HERALD, 25 Bellevue av., Toronto, Canada (no more, no les).

—Mr Rob't McClure, 9 Braid st., New City Road, Glasgow, Scotland, publishes a neat pamphlet of 11 pages, vest pocket size, entitled *The Spelling Reformer*, no. 1, dated 25th Dec., 1905. It contains familiar hymns in a spelling with name-sounds of vowels in heavy-faced type, a, e, i, o, u, representing their ordinary to weak sounds. In other words, McClure uses heavy-faced type to do what Woollen does by small capitals (A, E, I, O, U) as shown on preceding page. McClure sends 50 copies postpaid for 2s.

—Mr Burch's 27th and concluding article, over two large pages, appeared 8 Feb. It gives a woodcut of Mr Drummond with biographic note. The Jones-Drummond alphabetic scheme is given (see our pages for April, 1899). Then follows a summary of position by Messrs Drummond, Jones, Lange and editor Burch. The series gives material for a historical and critical review (Who will write such?) and is well done with much care.

—*The Toronto World*, a morning daily, established 1881, uses these twelve words throughout: tho, altho, thru, thruout, thoro, thoroly, thorough, program, demagog, etc. It is now in its seventh year of daily consistent practise of this.

—Mr G. W. Wishard, 336 w. 44th street, New York, circulates by mail lithograph and other printed matter on universal languages, improved spelling and other cognate, but mostly linguistic, subjects. In packages mailed is a copy of THE HERALD with several places marked so as to call attention to matters more pointedly. This helps put recipients on a right track, arouses interest instead of languid inattention and should not be neglected by distributors.

—The last line of Tennyson's *Crossing the Bar*, as he wrote it, reads :

When I have crost the bar.

Meddlesome copyists have changed *crost* to *cross'd* in some of their versions.

—"A Question of Preference in English Spelling" (seven pages in *Popular Science Monthly*, May 1904) by Dr E. W. Bowen, of Randolph-Macon College, discusses which is preferable in most of words that differ on different sides of the Atlantic. Most of his conclusions favor cisatlantic usage.

—Bowen's article above-mentioned and Brander Matthews' one in *Harpers Monthly*, July 1892, on "American Spelling," give strong grounds for rational and authoritative preference. These articles may be cited and quoted confidently to douters and the weak in the true faith.

—The articles just cited treat *many* Preferred Spellings, not *all*. That is a list of Preferred Sp. published herein as far as *bilge* only. We urge workers to stop "hatching one scheme after another" and do a little spade-work in this loer but necessary labor.

—Two donations to our work deserve a special acknowledgment: £1 from E. L. Pontifex, of Swansea, Wales, unconditional; \$5 from G. W. Wishard, of New York, on easy conditions.

—Here is the weakness of spelling reform: Its trumpets do not blow a certain sound. Receiving six letters from six spelling reformers, I found each wrote a different system. This may be admirable, but is incompetent, and, in effect, leaves victory with our opponents. It remains with them

until enough of us unite on a definite system and can (not only take away, but) substitute. That is the problem. "Man has power over language to the extent that he can get his fellows to agree with him." Agreement on a definite program is necessary, because all the requirements of modern life demand accepted standards.—SIDNEY E. BOND in *Newcastle (Eng.) Chronicle*.

—We don't go ahead because: 1) We keep to the policy of *piecemeal*, thinking it the best as a gradual and evolutionary method. Piecemeal is abhorred by the commercial world and ordinary people because no sooner do they unlearn one system and painfully learn another than they are asked to take another dose. Their feeling is: No, thank you. The commercial world, in this as in other affairs, asks certainty—fixed spelling, not a series of changes. 2) Our energy is diffused—we don't concentrate on a single system. We must (a) avoid discriminating too many shades of sound; avoid new letters and overmarks as much as possible. (b) Produce an alphabet acceptable to average people rather than scholars or cranks.—S. E. BOND.

—Mr Bond advocates these as two earliest steps: 1) Unite on *k* for the *c-k-q* sound; 2) Name *a, e, i, u*, as in *bazaar, they, machine, rule*. Given this, he says, there would no longer be English values and Italian values to divide us.

—As to *C versus K* the Amer. SRA has given a decision tho' wise by many: Advocates of *C or K*, or *C and K*, are alike eligible for membership. Neither divide nor quarrel about it.

—"Spel *faisé*" was put by Justice Morgan recently, in a Toronto court, to the defendant. Miss Jacques and Mrs Weaver were bosom friends till they quarrelled. Then Miss J. got an indecent letter, in writing resembling Mrs W's. Mrs W. spelt it *f-a-u-l-t-s*, as in the letter. Yet Judge M. tho' the evidence insufficient and dismissed the case. This recalls the celebrated Piggot case. See our volume i, page 177.

—*Karki*, for *khukki*, is spelt so by some who drop *rs*. There is no *r* herd, nor intended to be herd—like first *r* in *Tartar*, *ar* is simply an orthographic expedient to show prolonged *a*. Is first *k* a guttural? If so, *kh* would be its sign, and *khauki* and *Taatar* better than *khukki* and *Tartar-aa* is proper, better than misuse of *ar* or *ah* to represent a sound purely vocal. *Misisaaga* and *Okanagan*, if adopted, would harmonize with *Transvaal* and *Aar*.

—Mr Carnegie has endorsed peculiarly and otherwise the movement to simplify spelling by making it systematically regular. He backs an organization with headquarters in New York—an announcement made just as we go to press.

ONE OR OTHER.

An opinion by Dr C. P. G. Scott has had wide circulation. It is scathing, yet true:

"In my opinion, long held, and confirmed in the most positive manner by a somewhat extended lexicographic experience and philologic study, the so-called 'system' of notation, used in the current American and English dictionaries, is thoroughly bad—unhistoric, unsentific, unliterary, unscientific, inconsistent, irrational, ineffectual, utterly senseless in itself. There is not only no redeeming merit in it, it is a serious obstacle to understanding and teaching the simplest facts concerning the pronunciation of English, and its true historical position, and its relations with other languages.

"This applies to Webster, Worcester, Stormonth, the Imperial, and their unwilling successors, as the Century and the International, in the same line of conventional notation. Only the *Oxford Dictionary* and the *Standard Dictionary* have been bold enough and wise enough to use a notation based on historic and scientific principles. I think all new dictionaries will be bold and wise also."

Now, we take it, the essential purport of all this is: 1) Symbols (letters) are used in their historical or etymologic sound-values. (NED, or *Oxford*, is, par excellence and alone, founded "on historical principles"). Historical values correspond to cosmopolitan usage. 2) Symbols are arranged in pairs, or, rather, triplets, that show their mutual relations now and in bygone ages. Both points are not true of other dictionaries, whose notations are chosen for (not principle, but) convenience. Result, a jumble inconsistent alike with phonology of past or phonetics of present times. Vowel symbols, especially if put in pairs or triplets, are readily held in mind with their relations self-evident. Ordinary dictionaries simply fail to do this; NED and the *Standard* succeed. They re-echo filologic deliverances on two sides of the Atlantic. Do they agree throughout? No, they take different values for two vowels (a, o). We may follow one or other, but hardly both.—Which should it be?

INVASION AND EXODUS.

New England east of the Connecticut river, long considered a dialectic preserve, is losing that character. We learn that

"However unwilling some New Englanders may be to acknowledge it, the present large immigration of people from other parts of the English-speaking world is introducing into New England a more general form of English; and that the Irish have a part in the movement there can be no doubt. It is observable in both pronunciation and vocabulary. . . . Prof. Grandgent says conservative æ, which still prevails, with but little variation, in most of America, is now crowding out a [ask, fast, farm] in New England."

On the same page (*Dialect Notes*, vol. ii, page 254) Prof. Hempl records this letter from a lady near Boston:

"I have come recently to New England after long residence in California and note changes in pronunciation and vocabulary of my acquaintances here during 25 years. In persons of my own generation, still more in the younger, I note tendency to flatten a [farm] to æ, dæns [dance] most of them say. They sound h more in wh, and perhaps roll r more. In general, however, this letter, when final, is still silent."

This exodus of natives (see Roessler's letter on our p. 159) coincides with a low, and still falling, birth-rate, and gives point to Dr Drummond's *Yankee Families* (see our p. 155). Recently a little French-Canadian took by rail her nine children from the Adirondacs to their father in Maine. The eldest was seven, followed by four pairs of twins. The nine past at 1½ fares.

"Exodus" hardly applies to Maine, where in parts before remote an era of railroad building, mining, making pulp, farming and general activity has begun, like that in northern Ontario. Railroads open new districts with fertile belts, unknown or inaccessible before—invasion, no exodus.

A VETERAN'S COUNSEL.

a in ask, e on, u up, a ale, o for, y sing, receive such general approbation that any alphabet must contain them or be doomed to fail. K seems on the upgrade. Why not c for ch in chime, x for z? Then we place all old letters except q. Abolish capitals.

Venice, Ill. WELINGTON WILCOX.
[Mr W. started to have convention of 1876.

His counsel deserves respectful thought. An irreducible minimum is the vowel-signs in *may we come* (which Mr W. writes *ma wi cəm*). Prof. Skeat says the real *crux* of any alphabetic scheme is how it represents the vowel in *come*—his irreducible minimum. Between Englishmen who cry "no new letters" and Americans who insist on several, necessary accord is yet afar. The mills of the gods linguistic grind slowly, but exceedingly fine.—ED.]

LITERATURE

Skeat's *Primer of Classical and English Philology* (Frowde), just out, has much, especially in its earlier chapters, that bears more or less directly on our problems. As Papillon says (*Compar. Philol.*, pref.):

"minute study and comparison of the forms of two such languages as classic Greek and Latin, or of two or more among the languages of modern Europe, with due comprehension of the laws of fonetic change that have operated to produce existing divergences from common forms, is the best possible preparation for adequate grasp of any of the problems into which the science of language enters."

Too many of us prefer to shut our eyes to what light there is, and go blindly on, with no guide or accepted guiding principles, busily "hatching one scheme after another," and leading to Bedlam's Discord.

The yearly volume of *Neuere Sprachen* ending March 1906 has four noteworthy articles: 1) an appreciation or estimate of Furnival and his work to age of 80, attained 4 Feb. '05. It is in German by Schröer of Köln (Cologne). 2) Jespersen of Copenhagen gives, translated into German, a history of phonetics (*Zur Geschichte der Phonetik*). 3) Lloyd has a series of continued papers on Glides Between Consonants in English, one being on syllables and syllabication. 4) Prof. Geddes of Boston pleads for a Universal Alphabet settled by an international convention soon.

KITCHEN FRENCH, a Dictionary of terms used in Cookery. Part I, Fr.—Eng. Part II, Eng.—Fr. Ben Franklin Co., 232 Irving av., Chicago. Oil-dyed paper, 25 cents.

Armed with this traveler's vest-pocket consultee one is ready to take French bills-of-fare. Without it there are tantalizing, aggravating, exasperating blunders. The average French dictionary (if at hand, but its bulk forbids) gives little help in dining-

room equivalents. These 37 pages are full of them. We note *thru*, *mold*, *cucumber*, and other preferred spellings, with a general up-to-date air. As the French spell *pheasant* with *f* for *ph*, why not we?

THE OUTCOME.

RITN IN 1912.

In 1906 a bride gave a million to journals to drop *e* from *have*. It caused a great discussion. Then millions of people dropped useless letters, and the governments completed the reform. Now her little daughters find spelling easy.

336 w. 44, New York.

G. W. WISHARD.

THE ELEMENT LENGTH (DURATION).

Too long have we used *long* and *short* with very different meanings. This leads to confusion. The only element in duration is time, hundredths or thousandths of a second measured by a time-piece. In a phonetic notation if nothing is said about duration it may fairly be taken as average. If more than average, say *prolonged*; if less, *brief*. *Long* or *short* are often meant to distinguish quantity or quality or both beside duration. *Length* is ambiguous: say *duration*. The Germans have an excellent and unmistakable term for it: *Lautdauer*, meaning *phone-duration*.

How should duration be marked in notation? Bell has a mark called "holder" to show increased duration, Tuttle cuts the dot off a note of exclamation (!), musicians put a dot, the macron is used consistently in NED and Wright's *Eng. Dialect Dict'y*, confusedly in *Standard Dict'y* (as over a vowel utterly weak, see *ē* in *reformation*), Passy has a special sign also confusedly employed to show quality (i in *it* and *ea* in *eat* have *i* and *i* prolonged respectively), in *walk* on page 160 we have used a double diamond (:). Any symbol may be employed that is used consistently. Signs may be changed in different phonetic notations as their authors' reasons or whims dictate.

Liberty to invent symbols belongs to a phonetic notation, but in New Spelling this is forbidden almost. Therein we are limited nearly to the printer's case. How should prolongation beyond average be indicated in New Spelling which necessarily falls so far short (in degree) of phonetic notation? Answer, by doubling. (Ellis in his extensive Palaeotype with hundreds of symbols adhered to doubling). Where doubling is not allowable, or leads to confusion by association, what? The colon (:). As prolongation is so commonly associated with elision (for which the apostrophe is the established sign), we have ventured to advise (p. 138) that the apostrophe have its functions so extended as to fill the want. The apostrophe

has evolved its uses within three centuries and may still have them extended to cover allied functions.

This matter of duration is so very much neglected among us that we have to resort to Sweden and Germany for light for our benighted understanding of our own language of which we are as justly proud as arrogant and ignorant. A lecturer in the university of Upsala has written a German treatise on it (*Englische Lautdauer*, iv + 111 pages, Upsala and Leipzig). Lloyd (*Maitre Phonet.*, 1903, p. 101) calls it "the most important contribution to our knowledge of English sound-length made for many years." Tuttle and Scripture, both of New Haven, alone in the English-speaking world, have given sound-length much attention. The rest of us prefer to work, like moles, in the dark, or if we emerge to light, shut our eyes and "go it blind." We gab away about things of whose elements we know nothing—compound ignorance: don't know that we don't know.

W FOR R.

Williams considers spellings like *wevy* for *very*, *weally* for *really*, point to a "guttural" *r*, as certain forms of velar *r* resemble *w*. To me, these spellings indicate a pure labial sound derived from rounded *r* by weakening of the articulation. In some American pronunciations *r* is very weak before unstressed vowels, and may become entirely silent if not rounded; thus I have heard *veɪ kæk't'rist'k* from natives of Ohio and Indiana. American *r* is however frequently rounded. . . . in my pronunciation nearly the same lip articulation as *w*. In case the point articulation of rounded *r* is relaxed, the resultant is a labial strictly resembling *w*; but differs from *w* in having no dorsal elevation, from *v* in having no strong friction. This labial *r* may be heard as an individual peculiarity in America, and would certainly be written *w* by any one trying to represent it.

In America apical vowels are formed with tongue-point raised to the *r*-position nearly; similar or identical sounds occur in England.—TUTTLE in *Neuere Sprachen*, June, 1904.

W for *r* is, as a rule, nothing more than a trick of languid dandyism in the "better vulgar," to use a happy phrase of Warburton. Occasionally it is due to weakness of muscles that push the tongue forward, and in people free from any trace of affectation.—SIR MORELL MACKENZIE, *Hygiene of Vocal Organs*, p. 163.

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