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The Herald.

DEVOTED TO PRONUNCIATION AND AMENDED SPELLING.

3^D YEAR.

TORONTO, CANADA, DEC., 1887.

N^R 30.

—Bob Burdet says that Newburyport is pronounst Noobryprt.

—Why hav we z in breeze and s in cheese?

—Why hav we ough in enough and uff in stuff?

—The Filologic Section of Canadian Institute wil meet twice in January and continue systematic study of speech-sounds, viz.:

Tuesday, 10th, Study of Throat-Sounds;

“ 24th, Study of Vowels.

Rev. J. F. McCurdy, D.D., wil open the study on throat-sounds.

DED—?—Can any one tel us if either of the foloing ar still living:—

A. E. Barker, Bow River, Alberta, N.W.T.

C. R. Carter, Peterboro, Ont.

During past two years, we hav repeat- edly sent them bills for subscription without any respons. We hav no hart to send a

paper, month after month, to the ded—.

As soon as we no for certn of their deth we shal make a suitabl memorial in these

columns, paying such tribute to departed wordh as appears merited. We hav a num- ber of others who apear to be ded but we

shal wait til expiry of two complete years, hoping they may sho signs of life mean- time.

NEWSPAPER LAW.

Those who continue to take a newspaper out of the post office are considered subscribers, and can be compelled to pay for the same, no matter whether they ordered it or not. Their acceptance and use of it is considered evidence that they are subscribers.

KNUDSEN'S ORTHOGRAFY.

Belo we giv a sampl of the orthografy preferd and employd by Mr. Knudsen, taken from the Explanation to his Primer. It is therefore intended for scool use. The shapes a, e, i, o, u, ar assignd to the vowels in pat, pet, pit, put, respectively; while a', e', i', o', u' ar givn to those in art, ale, eel, old, ooze. The vowel in ox is represented by e, while e' is for open o (as in all). The raizd comma (ˆ) is comonly omited before r and at end of word. It wil be notist that the number of doted letters is increast. Here is the specimen:

“The alfabet yzd is izili lernd, so that pupils can sun help themselvs in ridning words, and thos gen encorejment tu go on chirfuli acwjrng abiliti tu enonshiet distinctli, therbj leing a feundeshon for intelijibl and plizng ridning and spiking, so rarli met. Ruls for speling ar givn that retan ordinari speling in az meni words az practicabl foneticali. Having acwird distinct enonshieshon, and having advanst tu ridning buks in ordinarri speling, pupils wil bi fami- liar elredi with the apirans ev meni words, and bj help ev thi-z and the context wil sun becom familiar with other words, so az tu rid flwentli and distinctli. The ticher's atenshon shud bi givn espeshali tu secur distinct oterans ev sounds hwich com- poz words. Shud this sim tu tend tu fermal or pedantic prononshieshon, it most bi remem- berd that, after scul-lif, prononshieshon wil bi modifd bj the individual's tests and aso- shiets. Bj erli and thoro trening in distinct articuleshon, ridning and spiking wil bi soch that the hirer wil net bi distrest bj the onintelijibl mombling so fri-cwentli met.”

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BENGOF.—Mr. Thomas Bengough rites from Toronto to *Notes and Queries* (Manchester, N. H.): "Can any reader help me to the derivation of my name? I am a sp. reformer, and fonetic journals urge that I shud spel the name Bengof. This I decline to do til I no more certainly that gof wud indicate correctly the pronunciation of the last sylabl. Ar not all the leters needed—that is, is not the sound the Scotch gutural, and ar not therfore all the leters ough required to record the awkward sound? Is the origin of the name Scotch, Welsh or Irish?" Elsewhere we quote Mikljon (Meiklejohn) to sho that the gutural has been dropt from refusal to pronounce it. The pronunciation having changed, the spelung shud folo suit and not lag centuris behind, stil indicating to the eye the gost of a gutural long since ded to the ear, and which shud hav been interd decently long ago. If ough has changed to f in sound, put it f; if ough is silent, then stop at o. Bengo appears a les comon pronunciation than Bengof. Which is right we don't determin. The beuty of the Two Rules * we spel by is here-in aparent as talying with the highest filogy.

* REVISED SPELING: 1. OMIT evry useles letter. 2. CHANGE *d* to *t*, *ph* to *f*, *gh* to *f* if sounded so.

DOUGLAS.—With Mr. Douglass ther is another "lion in the way": *The law does not permit it.* This is a misconception. The law folos the intention Hence a misspeld letter is just as good evidence as one speld in orthodox fashn. It is the *mater*, not the *manner*, of the communication that counts. Rites on ethics lay down the rule: "The quality of an act resides in the intention." Punctuation is not legaly necessary in legal documents, and is seldm taken into account. We hav non good lawyers who hav as poor a noledg of punctuation as a scool-boy. Excuse: practising law does not require it. Tru, the meaning of legal frases may turn on a punctuation mark; stil they shud be worded so carefully that the meaning is plain without that. But we hav a case in point: Prof. Crow, before adoptng Kro as the spelung of his name, "had submitted the mater to one of the Massachusetts judges to investigate thoroly the law upon the point. The judge gave a ritn opinion that the law alowd a change of spelung which was evidently intended to represent the same pronunciation. If the change wer to another name, it wud be counted as an efort to disguise identity."

—"No w in French!" said Snooks: "Then, I'd like to no how them chaps spel wagon?"

LITERATURE.

ELEMANS D'ANGLAIS PARLÉ, ETC. (Elements of Spoken Eng., by Paul Passy; 2d edit.; Firmin-Didot, 56 Rue Jacob, Paris, 1887; boards, p. 96; 24-mo; price, 1 franc.)

This is an exposition of our speech for French lerners. Part First givs an outline of elementary sounds from anatomico-fysiologic basis, the only basis deservng consideration. His statements ar correct in the main. He is not content with the division of consonants into palatal, lingual and labial, but givs 3 or 4 subdivisions to each clas. Thruout, ther is an undercurrent of comparison with corresponding sounds in French. This makes it valuabl and interesting.

As to signs, we congratulate our author on his good shape, for th in *thin*, for which Greek *theta* is used. It is quite a suces. For th in *then*, the crosst d of Anglo-Saxon is restored, stil in use in Icelandic, and which appears regularly in a weekly newspaper (*Winnipeg Leifur*) in "this Canada of ours." It is the organ of Icelandic settlement in Manitoba. Thruout this publication separat s ngs for the two *ths* appear. While they lasted til 15th century in Eng. they stil flourish in 19th in Manitoba. In Passy's book, insted of having A B C D.....as capitals for a b c d.....we find **abcd**.....an innovation which it may or may not be wise to include in Amendment of Sp. The hole work is in a degree of Am. French Sp. of just about what corresponds to amount of changes made by our Two Rules.

The Second Part consists of easy selections of words, in sentences givn in an orthoepy altogether too colloquial. Distinct orthoepy is beter. In America, we stik to the dictionary, and therby ar more uniform than our European friends, who get into the colloquial plane. The Eng. S. R. A. says: (*Fourth Annual Report*)

"The test consisted of two parts. The first was a passage from a Fourth Reader which was ritn out twice in each system, once in the orthoepy adopted by Mr. Pitman, and once in that of Mr. Ellis. The second part consisted of a list of words presenting varius difficultis of spelung, and each scheme was aplyed to represent these words in a uniform orthoepy, which was *practical, that of an ordinary pronouncing dictionary.*"

Our author givs a Pitman-Sweet orthoepy with suposed improvments of his own. It is beter to stik to the dictionary, which is comparatively fixt, rather than try to swim in the trubld waters of Ellis-Pitman-Sweet (London)-Passy colloquialism.

The Third Part givs irregularitis in formation of plurals, pronouns, verbs, etc. This is done under the questionabl title, "Elements of Gramar." Our language has become so nearly completely uninflected, as to bear out the statement of its being "the Gramarles tung" as the late Richard Grant White has calld it.

STORY OF GH.—How is it that we hav in so many words the two strongest guturals in the language, g and h, not only separatly, but combined? The story is od. Saxon scribes rote—not *light, night, and night*, but *liht, miht, and niht*. When they found that Norman-French gentlemen wud not sound h, and say—as is stil said in Scotland—*licht*, etc., they dubd the gutural, strengthening h with hard g, and again presented the dose to the Norman. But, if he cud not sound h alone, stil les cud he sound the dubl gutural; and he very coolly let both alone—ignored both. The Saxon had dubd the signs for his gutural, just as a farmer might put up a strong woodn fence in front of a hedg; but the Norman cleard both with perfect ease and indifference. So it came to pas that we hav the symbol gh in over sevnty words, in most of which we do not sound it at all. The gh remains in our language like a moss-grown bolder, bro't down into the fertil valy in a glacial period, when guturals wer both spokn and ritn, and men believ in truthfulness of letters—but now past by in silence, notist by no one.—PROF. MEKLEJOHN, in *Eng. Language*, Edinburg, 1886, page 247.

EXPULSION OF GUTURALS.

The Normans helpt us in geting rid of numerus throat-sounds that infested our language. It is remarkabl that ther is not an h in the hole language. The French rite h in several words but never sound it. Its use is merely to serv as a fence between two vowels, to keep them separat, as in *la haine*, hatred. No dout Normans cud uter throat-sounds wel enuf when they dwelt in Scandinavia; but, after they had livd in France for several generations, they aquired great dislike to all such sounds. No dout, too, many, from long disuse, wer unable to giv uterance to a gutural. This dislike they communicated to the English; and hence, in present day, ther ar many peopl, especially in south of Eng., who canot sound a gutural. The throat musls that help to produce these sounds hav become atrofied, hav lost their power from want of practice. The purely Eng. part of population, for many centuris after Norman invasion, cud sound guturals quite easily, just as Scotch and Germans do now; but it gradually became the fashn in Eng. to leav them out. In some cases the gutural disappear entirely; in others, it was changed into or represented by other sounds. The ge at begining of pasiv or past participis of many verbs disappear entirely. Thus *gebrolht, gebolht, geworht*, became *brought, bought, and wrought*. G at begining of many words dropt off. Thus *Gyppenswich* became *Ipswich*; *gif* became *if*; *genoh, enough*. Gutural at end of words, hard g or c, also dis-

appear. Thus *halig* became *holy*; *cordhlic, carthly*; *gastlic, ghasly* or *ghostly*. The same is the case in *dough, through, plough*, etc., the gutural appearing to eye, not to ear. Again, the gutural was changed into quite different sounds—into labials, into sibilants, into other sounds also. The foloing ar a few exampls:

(a) Gutural softnd, thru Norman-French influence, into a sibilant.

Thus *rigg, egg* and *brigg* hav become *ridge, edge* and *bridge*.

(b) Gutural has become labial, f, as in *cough, enough, trough, laugh, draught*, etc.

(c) Gutural has become an additional syllab, and is represented by a vowel-sound. Thus *sorg* and *nearh* hav become *sorrow* and *marrow*.

(d) In some words, it has disappear to both eye and ear. Thus *maked* has become *made*. *Ibid*, p. 246.

—Why shud we spel it *sieve*, insted of *siv*, when the cognate is *sift*? Giv it up? Wel, so do we. No sensibl man can giv a reason.

—Japan adopts the 24 o'clock plan on 1st Jan., 1888! Astonishing! The world does move! They hav an orthograpy about perfectly fonetic since the introduction of the Roman alfabet to supersede their old ideographic system.

CORNWALL AND LANCASHIRE.—Tregellas in an article on Cornwall, in *Nineteenth Century* for Nov. '87, says: "The dialects spokn even in the present day in some cuntry districts ar quite unlike any other dialects, and ar as unintelligibl to a stranger as that of Lancashire."

—Mr. J. B. Rundle, an activ and prominent advocat of Am. Sp., has publisht a simpl fonograpy to be used as a means of denoting speech or pronunciation. It employs a shorthand sign for each sound. If used in school, as intended especially, it familiarizes both pupil and teacher with the elements of sound, apart from misleading habits of old orthograpy and so serves a useful purpos. It is comparabl to shorthand product after lerning fonografic alfabet. The signs used ar not thruout the same as in fonograpy.

—A secnd edition of Mr. Knudsen's Primer is under way. The first edition, 300 copis, is about exhausted.

—Mr. J. G. Gholson, of Broughton, Ill., is in the lecture field this winter. His program givs a choice of three lectures: (1) Protection and Finance. (2) Craming, Orthograpy, and Elementary Sounds. (3) The Participl. He is "perfectly sound on the goos question" (Sp. Amendment.) We hope he wil make two things—converts to tru faith, money.

—Compare *tongue* and *wng*.

—"Rare Ben Jonson" had a very sensible way of spelling his name; no silent, useless letters in it, like other Benns, other Johnsons, and Mr. Thompson-with-a-p.

LONDON SPEECH AND NOISE.—Sound-blindness [better termed tone-deafness] will account for dialectic variations. The ear being, as physiologists tell us, an even more delicate and complex structure than the eye, we can understand that physical conditions in certain localities may produce insensibility to particular variations of sound. Perhaps the interminable rattle of London may account for the awful vowel-system of commercial men in the metropolis.—*London Journal of Education*.

OUGH IN PROPER NAMES.—Everybody has at their tongue-tip many illustrations of the absurd irregularity of ough in ordinary words. There is like irregularity in proper names, which we point out as *les non*. All the names given appear in Toronto directory for '87. Keough is pronounced as the name of the letter Q. Mr. Wm. Kough, Owen Sound, says his name is pronounced as Kyo. Ough is pronounced as the name of letter O. Bengough is either Bengof or Bengo. Clougher rhymes with Moor. Ugh is silent in *Whattmough and Woolnough*.

CORRESPONDENCE.

"KNUDSEN'S ORTHOGRAPHY."

SIR,—In your last issue, Mr. Jones makes several observations on the system of spelling adopted in my Primer. Some of them have been anticipated and answered in Appendix to my Pronouncing and Spelling Dictionary to which I shall refer.

I consider it unnecessary to have a separate sign for ng. Children and foreigners experience very little difficulty in giving the proper sound to ng in words like *finger, hunger*, etc., and *singer, hanger*, etc. See Dict. p. 374, § D.

As to Th th, see p. 379, F, 9. Teachers and educated people are prejudiced against dh, as leaning to Dutch pronunciation. As to retention of c, k, x, qu, see p. 377, F, 8.

Mr. Jones emphasizes the difficulty of obtaining new-formed letters. This has been met by adopting as few new letters as practicable. To provide signs for at least 40 sounds, I have introduced the longus (˘) which besides has the advantage of saving many words from so strange appearance as they would have by new letters. It is easy to teach, easy to transfer to writing in current Sp., and easy to read by present readers.

As for analogy with other languages, it is applied so far only as to assign a, e, i, o, u to sounds they indicate in Italian, Spanish, French, German, Danish, Swedish and many other languages. The importance of this may not be appreciated by Englishmen; but in U. S. there are many foreign-born residents to whom it is a great help to have a, e,

i, o, u represent the same sounds as in their native tongues. Besides, by this, more words remain unaltered than if these letters are given English values.

I appreciate the convenience of alternatives during transition period. The symbols proposed by English reformers are judiciously chosen, and should be agreed on for one of three systems:

1. The English, using ordinary letters only.

2. The Demotic, using few (5) new letters.

3. The Fonic, using 14 to 19 new letters.

If these three systems, with rules and directions for use were matured and put before the public in a concise and practical form, the selection would be made according to purposes and circumstances.

As to use of o for vowel in *nut*, I have not been led astray. It is a necessity in the Demotic; stem. The Am. S. R. A. have adopted i, e, a, o, u, for the six brief vowels, using o in *not*, and u in *full*; therefore we have to use o in *nut*: while Mr. J. of necessity adopts i, e, a, o, u, w, for the same brief vowels, using o in *not*, u in *nut*, and w in *full*. See p. 376, § 4. The reason for using a raised comma for the longus instead of the macron is given, p. 375, § 2.

If we would establish ourselves into three companies, each working for perfection of one of three systems, Sp. Reform would be accomplished sooner.

S. NORWALK, CONN. C. W. KNUDSEN.

INTERNATIONAL ALPHABET—STANDARD SPEECH.

SIR,—I notice a slight mistake* in your otherwise excellent article, 2 months ago, on Amended Sp. in France. You say "there is neither k nor w in the French alphabet." No k, tr, q being chosen instead; but w is used for consonant in *oui*, practically identical with your w. For the rest, I too was sorry to see a national standpoint adopted instead of a broad international one. For our use of c (for sh) and j much can be said, but q for k is unfortunate; and u for French u, with w for international u, is clearly wrong: it ought to be the reverse. The adoption of a national point of view was perhaps a necessity in the circumstances. We shall do better as we grow older.

What you say of orthoepy is interesting. The question has been agitated repeatedly, in the *Teacher*, for English, French and German. In order to have it practically settled we give articles by all members in the *orthoepy of their choice*, whilst "the learners' corner" tries to stick to standard speech. By comparing different pronunciations, a good standard will be evolved at length. At any rate, comparison is interesting and instructive. Neuilly-sur-Seine. P. PASSY.

[*There's no mistake. The existing French alphabet has no w. The proposed enlarged and revised one has—a different thing.]