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The Herald.

DEVOTED TO PRONUNCIATION AND AMENDED SPELLING.

5th YEAR.

TORONTO, CANADA, May, 1889.

N^R 45.

—The *Deaf-Mute* for Jan. exhibits good sense and dawning light (tho unwelcome in a quarter we cud name) by giving two columns to a plea for Amendment in Spel. It quotes the "Five Rules," and ads:—

"A great reform is at hand. S'oner or later, the chaos call'd spelling must giv place to order. This change may not come all at once, but come it wil. When the masses realize that the years and pains giv'n to mastering present sp. ar wasted, this sp. must go. As lorned men generally agree that a reform is desirabl, the les lorned must follo. A f. ther shows how the wind blows. men now spel honor without u, and ether without a."

Piggott's SPELLING.—In the "Parnelism and Crime" developments, forger Piggott is concern'd in part by his having misspeld 'sincerity' as 'hesitency' in the forged letters, also 'lielihood' and 'livelihood,' which misspellings he confirm'd in the witness-box. A case remarkably similar, say the newspapers, occurd many years ago in which *urgency* was speld with *a*, and *instalment* with *dubl l*.

TOMSON.—According to *Grip*, our author-journalist Mr Phillips Thompson cannot stand having ded lins trim'd from his nominal tree, making it 'Filips Tomson.' 'Rare Ben Jonson' did so. Mr Graham R. Tomson, without h or p, who edits with introduction and notes *Ballads of the North Countrie*, London, 1888, does some very sensible pruning to his name. He tels us, p. 442, "As 'nothing is non about Robin Hood, much 'is conjectured, and in entire absence of 'facts, ther is abundant lerning"—about the way it is with much of the etymology said to be enshrined in our spelling.

WHAT SYSTEM?—The absolute necessity of fonetic reform is now almost universally recognized, not only by practical teachers but also by scientific filologists. All objections that prejudice and irrational conservatism have been able to devise have been successf'ly met and the only question now is, what system shal we adopt?—SWEET in appendix to *Handbook*.

NEW SUBSCRIBERS.

W^m Linton, Principal Central School, New Hamburg, Ont., (got by Mr Connor.)
C. C. Chase, Irvington, Cal., (*Hamilton*).
J. H. Kob, Valley Falls, Kan., (*Hamilton*).
J. Sharp, Principal Business College, Galt, Ontario, (got by *Hamilton*.)

*REVISED SPELLING:— OMIT usesles lo:ers; CHANGE *d* to *t*, *ph* to *f*, *gh* to *f*, *ch* to *tsh*, if sounded so

SPANISH.—This language had its orthog. reform'd, 1803 to 1826, by the Royal Spanish Academy. Its rules ar laid down in "Ortografia" publisht at Madrid in 1826.

OBITU.—Mr J. B. Rundell, well-known by name to advocats of Amendment in Spelling, died on 1st April in London. He was employ'd in Education Department of South Kensington Museum, was among our earliest subscribers, and beside was much interest'ed in music, horticulture, shorthand, education, literary and scientific work. The *West London Observer* says:—"Mr R. wil be 'sorely mist in all circles which he frequent'ed; his amiable disposition, his generous, un-'prejudiced views, his inviolabl conscientiousness, his redines to help in a good caus, 'together with the resorces of a well-stored 'mind, making him a valuabl acquaintance 'and a deeply-loved friend." Mr W. R. Evans, a co-worker in Sp. Ref. with Mr Rundell, died recently of consumption. Mr E. once publisht a serial call'd the *Spelling Experimenter*.

"HULL," ETC.—Mr L. Lyon, Conneaut, O., calls attention to Dr O. W. Holmes in part vi of his *Autocrat of Br. Table* confirming hull as New Eng. pronuncia'n of *whole*:—"Yu no low they read Pope's line in the 'smallest town in Massachusetts? Wel, 'they read it

"'All ar but parts of one stupendus HULL'" Several rimes in the *Biglow Papers* go to corroborate this, as riming *home* and *come*. (trial corner.)

IN THE CORNER.

Ruf shal stand in the corner
(Ruf iz our dog, yu must no)
Ruf haz ben snapping and barking,
So tu the corner he 'l go.
Dogz hu ar snapish and noizi,
Set them apart and alon ;
Nothing tu fait or tu graul for,
Nothing—not evn a bon.

If ther wer ever a chaild, nau,
Snapish and noizi laik Ruf,
Qi shud sa, "Intu the corner
Until yu 'v had barking enuf."
But tu the chaild ai 'd sa further,
"If yu gro up in this wa,
Yu'l faind yursel ol in the waid wurd
Alon in the corner sum da."

—Chatterbox.

NOTES ON PRONUNCIATION.

GRAY'S ELEGY (continued).

The ploughman homeward plods his weary way,

Plods is plodz; that is, it is either plodz or plodz. Just here it shud be distinctly understood that *o* is close *a*, a sound of the *a*-clas, les opn than *a*; of it Whitney says:

"The sound in question occupyes so nearly a medial position between *a* of *far* and that of *war* that it might with equal propr ety be regarded as the short sound of either. It verges therefore very closely on tru short *a*, as of Ger. *Mann*, *alt*, French *ma*, *chat*, and is acoustically much nearer *a* (*far*)— tho always sharply and curatly distinguished from it— than is the so-called 'short *a*' (*a*) of *pan*, etc."

On the other hand, *o* is of the *o*-clas. It may be defined fairly wel as the first part of the difthong in *boy* or *noise*. It apears then that while one speaker chooses *o*, another chooses *o*, the close *a* aforesaid. If this hapnd with a few only it cud be dismist; but it asumes international import. In the sound-shifting which has gon on in British-American speech it comes that *o* is almost exclusivly chosen by good transatlantic speakers, while in cisatlantic speech *o* and *o* ar about equal in frequency. As evidence of this wide-spreed and startling fact notice that Ogilvie's (Imperial) Dict. givs *plod*, *plot*, *or*, etc., with the same vowel-sign as *form*, *corn*, etc. We once counted such sounds in Gray's *Elegy* and in our orthoepy found *o* and *o* about equal in frequency; in a certn other enumeration, from wider data, *o* was found 259 times; *o*, 154; *oi*, 12—ratio, 259:166—but the counter is a nativ of Conn., doubtles reflecting, tho unintentionally and perhaps unconsciously, New England habits. The question arises, has the change occurrd here or there? We believ, there; as speech here is comonly more conservativ, and ther ar evidences that such words as *or*, *plod*, wer formerly givn the *o*-vowel in England, perhaps in the British Isles generally: a striking fact is its frequency in dialect in Eng. today; a tailor on our street, a nativ of Herefordshir, givs *o* before *r* even as in *north*, *fortnight*, which with him ar *norð*, *fort nit*; nativs of Hampshir say *corn*, almost *earn*, for *corn*. The connection between Hampshir and New Hampshir in speech is real, not imaginary. The rustic is conservativ in speech, the citizen yields to sound-shifting, even starts it.

Now the erly settlers of N. Eng. on from 1620 wer from this rustic midl clas. We may expect then that this pronunciation of words speld with *o*, as *plod*, so markt a characteristic of American speech today, dates very much further bac: Ogilvie says

"In Arglo-Saxon *a* represents at least two principal sounds, a shorter and a longer (the later ofn markt with an accent). The shorter was no dout similar in quality to *a* in *father* tho shorter.— Many words in which it occurrd might be ritn in-

diferently with *o*; thus *mann* as wel as *mann*, *hand* as wel as *hand*, *fram* or *from*, &c."—*l* in *Dicty*.

This use of either *a* or *o* apears to explain why in some words, as *chat*, *yacht*, *watch*, orthograpy uses *a*, while in others, as *or*, *not*, it uses *o*. We believ that *o*, so prevalent here, is a survival of Anglo-Saxon times, and that it was transplanted to New Eng. from Old Eng. by the Pilgrim Fathers and their successors; also that, tho aparently confined to speakers of dialect there, it is in good use here—it *may* be on the decline.

o is declining in words, as *plod*, speld with *o*, and British practice of turning all of them into *o* is to prevail and be now taken as standard, it wil much diminish the frequency of *o*, so much so that it *may* be wel to reduce *o* to a sign for use in orthoepy only, using *a* as sufficie. *t* for both *o* and *a*, as in *far*, for all orthograpic purposes. Our 'trial corner' wil illustrate this.

Ther is a pronunciation of *ask*, *just*, etc., (*not* ask, past, etc.) said to be with an "intermediat" or closer vowel than opn *a*, or *a*. Such sound apears distinguishabl from *o* with great difficulty, if at all, tho redily distinguished from *a* by those not tone-def in high degree. We cannot distinguish *o* from this "intermediat."

That ther may be no mistake as to what is British practice, as mirord by Ogilvie at least, let us see what he says about *o*:

"The sound of *a* in *fall* forms an intermediat step between *a* in *father* and *o* in *home*. The same sound is represented by *au*, *avo*, as in *vault*, *claw*, &c. There is a short sound corresponding to this, that in *what*, *want*, *quality*."—*l* *ibid*.

Manifestly, *what* is ment to be hwot insted of hwot. Again, in enumerating the sounds represented by leter *o*, he says:—

"(3) The sound *o* in *not*, as in *cost*, *gone*, *top*:.... (4) The same sound lengthnd thru influence of *r* following; as in *mortal*, also in the digraf *outsought*, *brought*."—*O* in *Dictionary*.

(To be continued.)

1000 SOUNDS COUNTED.

•It is sometimes desirabl to no how frequently any givn sound occurs. Let the reader try to calculate and he wil be surprized perhaps to find how many questions of pronunciation hav to be past upon before enumeration can proceed. Whitney has givn his results in Part viii of his *Oriental and Ling. Studies*, 2d series, with views that influenced counting. He says:

"I took a selection of ten pasages, five in poetry and five in prose, from as many authors, of various periods, and separated and counted the individual sounds as met with in each til the number of 1000 sounds was reacht."

The ten pasages ar specified, one being the 1000 sounds begining Gray's *Elegy*. All such enumeration, to be worth anything, must be done free from that bias,

preconceived opinion and prejudice, that all hav more or les of ("present company excepted," of cours, reader). As to the interrelated questions of vowels not under accent and distinctnes of articulation:

"As for unaccented vowels, I hav estimated them as wel as I cud, according to a good and careful reading style, (that is, "liturgic" and) not a colloquial one; no one, I presume, cud go over the same passages twice and reach precisely the same results both times."

Transliterating into our symbols, the result is:—

| | | | |
|----|-----|-----------------|-----|
| r | 741 | i | 590 |
| n | 676 | o, u | 566 |
| t | 593 | e | 334 |
| d | 494 | a | 332 |
| s | 469 | ɛ | 280 |
| l | 384 | 'short' a [= o] | 259 |
| ð | 383 | ū | 200 |
| m | 306 | ai | 191 |
| z | 292 | ɔ(r) | 185 |
| v | 237 | o | 176 |
| h | 234 | ɑ | 161 |
| w | 231 | o | 154 |
| k | 217 | au | 83 |
| f | 205 | a | 56 |
| p | 171 | æ | 47 |
| b | 164 | u | 44 |
| sh | 86 | vocal l | 35 |
| g | 79 | " n | 16 |
| y | 79 | oi | 12 |
| v | 66 | ō | 8 |
| θ | 58 | | |
| ch | 53 | | |
| j | 47 | | |
| ɟ | 2 | | |

As to r, ch and j, we ar told:—

"It shud be noted that the number givn for r represents the more accepted pronunciation, rather than my own natural one (which wud leave

370 of 744 [or one haf] unpronounced.) "I hav—I confes, with questionabl judgment—reknd ch and j as independent elements, becaus of their distinct origin and etymological value, and especally becaus they ar after all not accurately represented by t and d and accompanying sibilant."—§41.

Of ə and u together, 350 ar estimated by W. to be ə, leaving 216, or 2·16 per cent., as u. Manifestly, this wil vary according to distinctnes of utterance, a careless colloquial speech tending to greatly increase ə, the slurd vowel. Of 200 assignd ū, fully 100 shud be givn u according to dictionaris. The exampls of ū sho that that sound is favord. Ading this 100 to 44, the number for u, also 83 for au, yet neglecting v, the u after o when dithongized, as some hold it shud be nearly always, we reach a total of 227. Ading numbers for ū, u and u together, we hav 327 u-sounds; and if 176 be aded for ou, or o", we hav 503 u-sounds or ful 5 p. c., not counting v at all as u-sound.

M^r D. P. Lindsly, of Philad^a, has counted 20,000 sounds. We rote M^r L. asking to hav his figures set oposit those above givn, sound for sound, with strictest acuracy as

to the comparison, without which it wud be wors than useles shakey foundations wil not last. His anser is that he is too busy riting a book to giv it atention.

FONIC METHOD. This teaches reading by drill in sounds insted of alfabetic or old hamer it in by never ending and cannot spel then repetition method. To our nol edg, it has been in use in Port Hope and Toronto scools for ten or twely years, and those using it hav no desire to go bak to alfabetic methods. It is taut by riting a word in ordinary form on blak-board; the teacher crosses out silent leters and marks each vowel with diacritic (as ǣ for a, ǣ for a, Ǔ for o, Ǔ for o, ǔ for u, ǔ for u, ū for u) giving the correspondng sound *viva voce*. It is but a haf-way method to a ful sound or fonetic system. Miss Soumes rites *Jur. Education*:—

"If anyone dout effect on children's pronounciaⁿ of an attempt to giv them symbols correspondng to sounds, they shud go to a good infant scool instructed on the fonic system, where it wil be found that, notwithstanding serious defects of that system, the children havng been made to study sounds, pronoune words, and especally final consonants with utmost distinctnes."

GERMAN-ENGLISH.—(*Grip*, Canada's great comic weekly, for 16th Feb., p. 101, in an artiel giving brokn English as spokn by one whose mother-tung is German, twice givs *business* as "peezeⁿness," which difers from M^r Connor's observation who says they say "bes'nes." This leads us to remark that papers which attempt giving brokn speech, 1, usually er, like Anglo-manias and other imitators, by overdoing; 2, comit other egregius blunders. In "peezeⁿness" both p and z ar such. This is haf excusabl in any newspaper which is nothing if not funny, and is so loosly edited that it shud make no pretensions to acuracy; inexcusabl in papers beter edited, to which *Grip* belongs, as we suppose. Such shud hav a dialect editor to correct blunders and make dialect conform to actual speech, as *Punch* and others do. Wordsworth says,

"To the solid ground
Of Nature trusts the mind which bids for aye."
As an exampl from the actual, we recently herd one say:

"(Ai hef pæn in mai het."
This was for "I hav pain in my hed;" or

"(Ai hav pæn in mai hed"
as we wud hav uterd it. Notice that the speaker, a German woman, uses, 1, ai for dithongal i; 2, not a, but e, in *hav*, becaus ther 's no a in Ger., e and a being comon, and our a lying between e and a in vowel-scale e is chosen; 3, v in *hav* is changed to f, a simpl case of a general law: no voiced consonant except with liquid ends a Ger. syllabl; she chose f, mate of voiced v, as in *hed* she chose t, mate of voiced d.

CORRESPONDENCE.

SIR,—I send more than enuf to pay ar w-ages. Ther is nothing meaner or more inexcusable than not to pay for one's paper promptly. I wud gladly pay dubl to hav dubl the size, as it is now the best advocat of amended sp. publiisht so far as I no. I frequently difer from its teachings: stl it is invaluable. I favor a complete fonetic alfabet—haf-way mesures always prove failures. I am greatly pleased with yur "notes on pronunciation." What is the diference between Fonology, Fonetics, and Fonics? [None.] What is mesured or liturgic "pronuncia'n"? I take great interest in Mr Jones' articles, but dont endors his spelling at all. We must hav a good ful alfabet for our language without regard to other languages—I dont believ in internationalism. Pitman, Graham, Comstock and others started right: the sooner we go bak to a complete alfabet the sooner we wil succed. I favor deliberat pronuncia'n—no "letr," "ritn," "hevn," but 'leter' 'riten' "heven." We make a great mistake in dropping vowels however obscure when pronounced quikly. Yur giving evry one a chance to expres his ideas is good. Yu ar doing noble work. I wish yu succes. Oberlin, Ohio. JOEL MYERS.

THE FIVE RULES.

SIR,—I quite agree with yu in thinking Pitman's first stage far too radical, or els not enuf. Among ourselves we may go much farther; with ou siders we must be very careful, making few changes. The [original] five rules, sensibly aplied, seem an exelent platform. Let all sp. reformers use them, and the smash of old spelling wil soon come. I shal always be glad to put in a good word for yur paper, which I greatly appreciate, chiefly becaus, like the *Teacher*, it lets evry one say its say. *Dall urto delle opinioni nasce il lume.** Paris, France. P. PASSY.

HAMER AWAY!

*From the clash of opinions springs light. We hav red somewhere "Truth's spark flies from the clash of opinions." Bullion says: "Diference of opinion, on varius subjects, leads to discusion—discusion to investigation—and investigation to discovery and establishment of truth. As a consequence, what was sound and stable before has been confirmd—many points that wer doubtful hav been settld—new and improv-ed methods of investigating subjects, and of imparting instruction, hav been adopt-ed—and the hole subject of education, in both theory and practice, has been much advanced." (Preface to Eng. Grammar.)

These pages hav a misionary object. Yur influence to extend circubl is solicited

STANDARD VOWELS.—We hav referd to necessity of having standard speech sounds, especially vowels, beter defined. Without progres is uncertn. The same want, f like reasons, is felt in other fields, as:—

"The [Brit. Med Assoc's] Collectiv Investiga'n Committee wud do esential service to medicin by promoting investigation of Temperaments first by supplying the profession with precise descriptions of diferent temperaments, want of which renders uncertn of meaning whatever is said or rith concerning them, and afterward by collecting results of their application to practice."—Dr STEWART in chap. iv. of *Our Temperaments*.

SPELLING IN "SHAKSPEARE."—Mr. J. D. Barnett rites from Stratford, Ont., that the spelling found in the quarto edition of Shakspeare publiisht in 1623 cannot be considered his. If editions of his plays publiisht before 1616, or during his life, be taken, Mr B. cud specify as much as four or even five sets of spellings. Even these ar not *his*, nor Bacon's either, for, according to Mr A. J. Ellis "These ar not *his* spellings; he edited no play, and the *Tempest* was not even publiisht in his lifetime. They ar printer's spellings, probably more regular than his."

EXHIBITION OF ALFABETS.—An interesting litt exhibition shortly to be opnd in King's Library in British Museum. wil (says London correspondent of *Glasgow Herald*) deal with all alfabets, past and present. It wil comence with erliest ritings in existence, and wil come down to our A B C. Max Muller said recently that all existing alfabets cud be traced from Egyptian hieroglifs. The new exhibition wil aford opportunity of testing this, becaus they wil be aranged as far as posibl cronologically.

Cox.—A riter in the *Forum* for Dec. says "The 'Cyclopedia of Amer. Biograpy' tells us that a son of stout old Presbyterian Dr Cox, who is now an Episcopalian bishop, has adopted the spelling 'Coxe.'" The good bishop is retrograde in other words than his own name: in words ending in *or* as *honor*, he insists on puting—*our*. *Honour* being hybrid between French *honneur*, with dubl *n*, and Latin *honor*, this spelling, *honour*, does not do credit to the bishop's scholarship, however it may suit his taste, about which, we suppose, ther is no disputing. Of a piece with this, he prefers the King James' Version (1611), with its many mistranslations and other behind-the-age expressions, to the Revised Version. As he is retrograde in some things, we wonder if he correspondingly travels by stage-coach, canal-boat, and pak-hors. Also we ar curius to no whether he prefers "dipt candls and sermons two ours long."

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