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# The Herald.

DEVOTED TO PRONUNCIATION AND AMENDED SPELLING.

VOL. II, 3.

TORONTO, CANADA, July, 1897.

№ 53.

## GOOD BEGININGS.

The National Educational Association is making a vigorous crusade for simplicity in spelling. At its last annual meeting the secretary was directed to use, in publishing proceedings of that and future meetings, such simplified spellings as should be recommended by the following committee:—Dr W. T. Harris, chairman; Superintendent Soldan, St. Louis, and Superintendent Balliet, Springfield, Mass. Dr Harris has recently notified Secretary Shepard that the committee recommend for use in all official documents the following:—

“program, tho, altho, thoro, thoro fare, thru, thruou, catalog, prolog, decalog, demagog, pedagog.”

These will be bro't before it at the Milwaukee meeting, July 6th to 9th.

*The Independent* of New York, a large unsectarian religious weekly at \$3 a year, has for a number of years used certain spellings throughout its pages. This is believed to be due to its editor, the learned and liberal W. H. Ward, D. D. Its spellings are commendable to any publisher seeking a suitable start in a better way. Here they are:—

“adz, a'tho, arbor, archeology, ax, ay, beldam, by, catalog, chlorid, cigaret, coquet, cosy, curtesy, cyclopedia, d'bonair; develop, domicil, duet, envelop, epaulet, esthetic, etiquet, facet, foggy, gelatin, good-by, gram, gypsy, hectogram etc., honor etc., household, mold, mustache, myth, novelet, omelet, oriflam, parquet, phenix, pony, program, quartet, quintet, sextet, sheath, story, sty, tho, vedet, whisky, wo, wreath.”

Most of these are not amended spellings. They are rather a selection of the simpler where two word-forms are prevalent. This is necessary to guide compositors at work as the variant forms are liable to appear on the same or adjacent pages, offensive to the eye, vexatious and wasteful of time in correcting and re-correcting—a few of many arguments for “fixed spelling.”

The Funk & Wagnalls Co., of Lafayette Place, New York City, publish the excellent *Standard Dictionary*, many books and four periodicals: *The Voice*, weekly newspaper, 8 pages, \$1.50 a year, circulation over 100,000; *The Literary Digest*, weekly magazine, 32 pages, \$3 a year, circulation 25,000; *The Homiletic Review*, monthly, 96 p., \$3 a year, circulation, 20,000; *The Missionary*,

*Review*, monthly, 80 pages, \$2.50 a year, circulation 10,500. About two years ago these publishers proposed to adopt very considerable amendments in spelling throughout all their publications including books. This would have been a great extension to the list they already use for years, viz.,

“adz, altho, Antichrist, archeology, ax, ay, beldam, bequeath, Bering Sea, by and by, catalog, Chile, coquet, courtesy, cyclopedia, czar, debonair, demagog, develop, diagram, dialog, domicil, duet, envelop, eon, epaulet, epigram, esthetic, facet, fetish, Fiji, gelatin, good-by, gram, gray, guarantee (verb), guaranty (noun), Haiti, hectogram, Hongkong, Kaffraria, kilogram, Kongo, Korea, Kurdistan, mold, monogram, mustache, myth, nowadays, parquet, pasha, phenix, program, prophecy (n.), prophesy (v.), Punjab, Rumelia, Savior, secrecy, sextet, sheath, skepticism, Sudan, synagog, synonym, technical, tho, Tibet, unchristian, whicky, wreath.”

It is strange that the poets down even to Tennyson have kept such word-forms as “drest,” “mixt,” etc., while they have been banished from our prose literature. Their restoration (for such it is) to prose should be easy. Accordingly, *The Phonographic Magazine*, 20 pages semi-monthly, \$1 per year, Cincinnati, O., began to do this last year, and keeps it going. The Funk & Wagnalls Co. proposed to do the same in addition to the word-list given above as soon as they had received three hundred acceptable signatures of professors, editors and other business and professional men who promised to do likewise so far as they had liberty and opportunity. Requisite signatures were obtained, and these further new preterits, several hundreds in number, at once began to appear in all their publications, except the *Literary Digest* (to begin shortly), and they have kept it up.

*Welch's Monthly* has followed suit, going farther than the Funk & Wagnalls Co. even promised. It is devoted to the interests of dentistry, published by A. S. Robinson, N. Broad St., Philadelphia, at \$1 per year, and edited by T. B. Welch, M. D., Vineland, N. J. The editor is the main-spring in this. While going further than others it is done with excellent judgment, tho to what extent he goes has not been vouchsafed his readers so far as we know. Following some rules or principles is necessary; otherwise we fall into capricious spelling, in itself an evil.

MEDICAL TERMS.

The Amer. Medical Asoc'n meets annually and at it medical editors meet as Amer. Med. Editors Assoc'n. When they met at Atlanta, Ga, in May, 1896, Geo. M. Gould, A. M., M. D., of Philadelphia, editor of an important medical journal and two justly popular medical dictionaries, read a paper in which, says the *Dental Digest*, he pled long and earnestly for gradual adoption of simpler spelling, that must come in time:

"Specifically, the microscopic modifications I urge are:—

"1. Abolish in English words archaic, unnecessary, bothersome æ and œ supplanting them by e.

"2. Ceasing tautological adjectives having already one adjectival suffix -ic—already done in thousands of words; finish the job. As, prosaic for prosaical.

"3. Drop the useless hyphen in words whose parts are derived from classic languages. In ten thousand words you have already done so; finish with the rest. Retain the hyphen in such compound terms as express a single idea by two semiferrous English words, especially when both are nouns; as antitoxin (not anti-toxin), cadaver, postmortem, ventrifixation, etc. Keep the hyphen, because necessary to avoid confusion and doubt, in curet-spoon, hart-mur-mur, skin-diseases, sleeping-sickness, etc.

"4. Drop useless -te from curet, brunet, fourchet, etiquette, cigaret, etc. You have already lopt it off from cutlet, doublet, quartet, quin et, sextet, septet, rake, minuet, fillet, corset, stylet, tourniquet, bouquet, etc.; finish the job. Cut off useless -me from many words, riting program, gram, centigram, etc., just as already we do telegam, anagram, diagam, epigram; let's make an end of it.

"5. Use figures instead of spelling out numbers, at least above ten.

"6. Anglicize foreign terms when a goodly proportion of your readers will not understand them in the originals. Use italics as little as possible; use as few foreign words and terms as possible, because the vast majority of your audience cannot understand them (even if you do); and because there is a deal of silly conceit in airing exotics of speech.

"7. As to chemic terms, accept recommendations of Am. Association for Adv't of Science, which, after years of dispassionate investigation, advised dropping final e in bromid, iodid, bromin, iodin, atropin, quinin, etc. Say fenol for carbolic acid, glycerol instead of glycerin, etc.

"8. Abolish diacritics and accents. They cannot teach pronunciation; they are useless luggage. Let us rite oophorectomy, cooperation, ptomain, leukomain, etc., without the dieresis. When a foreign word is Anglicized let us do it completely, and not drag into our domain exotics of foreign habit, leaving it, e. g., neither English nor French. To poets leave the acute, grave, and circumflex accents, foreign to the spirit of our tongue.

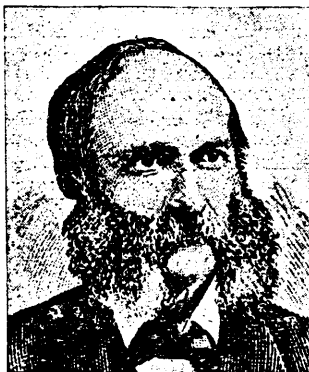
"Finally, consider the source and secret reasons for opposition to the foregoing. Ignorance—colossal, imperturbable, impertinent ignorance characterizes much of it. Read, e. g., the letters in the 'British Medical Journal' from correspondents (not editorial utterances, because the editors no better, and have publicly advised dropping æ and œ), and you will see these objectors haven't studied filology five minutes and live in an antediluvian world.

"Again, you will very often find the secret influence of the commercial medical publisher at work. He publishes a dictionary committed to old ways, then prints journals and books in the archaic language [word-forms] of his dictionary. It means expensiveness and loss of money to him in very many ways to have his "authoritis" supplanted. Not only can there be no valid objection to such simplified spelling, but there are many good reasons for its use. We must get out of this thralldom of foolish, difficult and heterogeneous spelling."

It is hard to kick against both unreasoning ignorance and sordid interest. Dr G. cannot do a better piece of work than to get medical editors and publishers into line. Chemists have come into line through efforts of Assoc'n for Advancement of Science; geographic terms have been much rectified in spelling by action of Geographic Societies. Let medical terms be brought into line with those of chemists and geographers. Dr Gould should "finish the job."

OBITUARY:—D. P. LINDSLEY.

DAVID PHILIP LINDSLEY, born in 1834, died at his home in Springfield, Conn., in March last, after a few weeks illness. He graduated at Union College and seminary, as a member of the Harvard Divinity School, was a clergyman in earlier life, having charge of a congregation at Meriden, Conn. Later, he devoted himself to brachygraphy, of which he was inventor. It was a system of fonetic shorthand with vowels and consonants written conjointly; there-



fore a variant of Phonography. As its originator he published *The Rapid Writer*, after 1881 called *The Shorthand Writer*.

LINDSLEY was of refined character, scholarly tastes, and humane sympathies, devotedly attached to the cause of human education, a life-long, self-denying, active worker in all that to be for the betterment of his fellow-men—an intensely earnest, industrious and enthusiastic reformer, so much so that he was often stirred to the boiling-over point of indignation at the apathy of people, or their slowness to accept or act on what seemed to him so plainly to their advantage, if not their duty to adopt. We have to thank *The Phonographic Magazine*, Cincinnati, Ohio, for the illustration of his features.

For spelling reform LINDSLEY accomplished two pieces of good work: first, amending spelling by omissions and changes in certain classes of words specified by rule—resulting in the 24 Joint Rules; second, with help of Mr E. Jones, B. A., Liverpool, he assembled the Centennial Convention for four days in August, 1876, Prof's Beard, De Graff, and Hagar also signing the original call. This resulted in the formation of the American Spelling Reform Association, and in 1879 of the English one. A second meeting took place at the Franklin Institute, Philadelphia, in October, 1876. He was corresponding secretary and treasurer for the association, doing for it a great amount of correspondence and other work unpaid. This was in its earlier years; later, he was less active. In *The Rapid Writer* so far back as October, 1869, is found the first germ of the Rules in an article entitled "The Spelling Reform." It suggests, first, riting head, dead, tread, etc., heil, ded, tred, etc.; second, omitting final e from have, give, live, etc.; third, omitting u from -ous in serious, glorious, various, etc. It reads "This is the first step. The Rapid Writer begs the privilege of conferring to the analogy of mother tongue." In October, 1872, he gives the same rules with list of words affected extended to include those in -ile, -ine, -ite, -ive, as facil, examin, infinit, nativ, etc. In October, 1874, he issued *Four Steps*, most of which have proven acceptable. He did not advocate new letters. Always a fonetician, but conservative, he hoped

## NEW SPELLING

that people id be bro't littl by littl to adopt beter word-forms rather than to insist on completed change at once.

### COSMOPOLITAN ENGLISH.

During the present century the criterion of good English has ceased to be metropolitan, and has become national. Its standard is no longer the practice of London, but the average practice of educated men throughout the kingdom. It is admitted by historians of the language that, if London tendencies had had their day, half a century ago would have become as silent in London as it has long been in Paris, and that the characteristic sounds which are now vanishing from the language. But these tendencies have been defeated by the resistance of the nation, and especially of the North. At present London seems bent on deleting *r*, but without much success outside her own immediate neighborhood. Still the influence of the metropolis is very great, and there is much fear lest the English of these islands may be led into an insular course fatal to its world-wide mission.

It is now necessary that the standard of good English shall be neither metropolitan, nor even national, but cosmopolitan; it must seek the suffrages of the best speakers of English everywhere. An English not just as intelligible in New York or Toronto or Melbourne as in London, is, for every highest purpose, bad English, and ought to be put down. There is no room for home rule or for State rights, or for any kind of particularism in the domain of our sovereign tongue. Her subjects have but one right, that of being pleasantly intelligible, each to all, and but one duty, that of making themselves so. It fortunately happens that there is perhaps greater earnestness in the pursuit of good English among large and widespread masses of Anglian people than ever before. Rightly guided, this feeling is strong enough to insure for all time the unity and pre-eminence of our common tongue, but if guided into the allowance and pursuit of local standards, however imposing, it will only hasten a particularist and necessarily divergent development, leading ultimately to dissolution of that which it seeks to honor and preserve.

The practical lessons to be drawn from these considerations by all speakers of English are two: (1) in all points wherein they feel that they are in accord with most other speakers of English, to observe most rigid conservatism; (2) in all other points, to favor change only if it brings them into wider agreement with other speakers than before. To fold these principles out into detail would require another article; but intelligently grasped, especially by the teaching community, they may be trusted to fulfil themselves.—R. J. LLOYD in Westminster Review, March, 1897. (Our aim should be to put this cosmopolitan speech in Orthography. Word-forms now in use indicate an archaic speech prevalent in the Tudor period. There has been no thorough revision since.—EDITOR.)

### NEWS NOTES.

—Sir Isaac Pitman's Sons, Bath, offered to publish a small monthly as a month-piece for the Spelling League established 4th January, 1897 when Sir Isaac reached 80 years. In accord with this, Mr H. Drummond, Hetton-le-Hole, sent a circular to 400 members. It asked minimum subscriptions of half-a-crown. But 30 replied, 12 subscribed—it deserved better.

—An article entitled "A Modern Babel" by J. P. Mahaffy, professor of Ancient History in Trinity College, Dublin, appeared in the 'Nineteenth Century' for November last. He argues with much force to have English a world-language for which it is so well adapted otherwise, were not its retched spelling in the way. From the second century B. C. Greek was a world-language for four centuries, made so by choosing a dialect, presumably Attic,

as standard, and by a system of marks or accents which lasts to our day it was made readily pronounceable by foreigners. He asks, cannot something like this be done for English? The article is logical, and well repay study.

—Mr Benn Pitman, a brother of Sir Isaac, resident in Cincinnati since 1833, has a memoir of his brother in preparation. This will supplement and bring up to date the life by Reed, published in 1890, —another version from another viewpoint.

—The Westminster Review for March has an article by Dr Lloyd, Liverpool, on "Can English be Preserved?" He dwells on separatist forces—one into many—and these that make for unity, without which it "would as certainly fall to pieces as did Latin when the links that bound all Latin countries to Rome and to each other were done away." The final part of his article appears in another column as "Cosmopolitan English." Every reader of this should ponder well the whole subject.

—In Canada, newspapers are carried free to subscribers, with sample copies at one cent a pound—facts counted on before revival of these leaflets. A stir to abolish free transmission affects us—THE HERALD has twice been denied such transmission by the Postmaster-General, which may stop its publication unless its friends help in distribution. Every parcel must carry a stamp as tho a circular.

—Dr J. M. Rice, Philadelphia, has published a series of articles on educational subjects in THE FORUM within a year. Those for April and June, 1897, are on "The Futility of the Spelling Grind." His results are deduced from examinations of 33,000 pupils in schools. Two of his conclusions are noteworthy: first, approximate accuracy in spelling depends on time and continual repetition rather than on method; second, do not insist on the vocabulary, be satisfied with a smaller list.

—The French Chamber of Deputies has past a grant of \$800 to found a laboratory of experimental phonetics in the College of France attached to Prof. Breal's (breal) chair, Comparative Grammar, and in charge of Abbe Rousselot, (rus-los), the inventor of a machine of the class of Hensen's speech-recorder (see HERALD, vol. i, p. 102) and that known as the fonatographe. We saw the one belonging to the University of Chicago there in Sept., 1895, then believed to be the only one in America. In March, 1896, Prof. H. Schmidt-Wartenberg of Chicago delivered an address on "Experimental Phonetics" with exhibition of Rousselot's machine in motion and magnified tracings at the Canadian Institute, Toronto, before an interested audience of 150.

A PITMAN MEMORIAL.—A pamphlet has come to hand giving "Personal Tributes, Memorial Addresses and Funeral Proceedings" of the late Sir Isaac Pitman. Meetings have been held in London to have some suitable memorial of him made along with the sexagenary of his Fonography, invented in 1837. A large committee is at work. Mr E. A. Cope, 37 Cursitor St., Chancery Lane, London, is secretary. A circular tells us: "Many suggestions have been made as to the form which the proposed memorial should take, among which may be mentioned: (1) A statue in London or Bath; (2) The establishment of Sir I. Pitman scholarships, exhibitions, medals, libraries, etc.; (3) The formation of a Pitman Club for the convenience of London and country fonographers; (4) The promotion of a general scheme of Spelling Reform. The ult-

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timat selection wil largely depend on the amount contributed, and the wishes of the majority of contributors. It is proposed to hold Sexagenary Celebration meetings in London in August or September, including a conference of shorthand teachers. Meanwhile, expresions of opinion ar invited from contributors with any suggestions as to the best form of memorial."

**CAXTON'S SPELLING.**—In 1484 a book of vers ritn by that mery monk, John Lydgate, of Bury St Edmunds, was "imprynted by Wyllym Caxton." As Lydgate was "poet laureate," most of his work was "at the commandment" of Henry V. This is the way Caxton speld and capitalized the ending of this book:—"Here endeth the **BOOK OF THE LYF OF OVR LADY** made by dan Iohn lydgate monke of bury at thynstaunce of the moste crysten kyng kyng harry the fyfth." When it is remembered that gothic or medieval blak-leter then prevailld, it is plain that word-forms hav undergon revolution since then.

**"CASE" AND "PLEA."**—The best three tracts in favor of amenling spelling ar perhaps: first, "The Case for Spelling Reform;" a compilation (by Mr H. Drummond) of opinions of eminent educators and many others; second, an abridgment of "A Plea for Phonetic Spelling," by A. J. Ellis, B. A.; third, Prof. Max Müller "On Spelling," reprint of an artiel in *The Fortnightly Review*, but now quite out of print. Since 1894, however, it has been included in editions of his "Chips from a German Workshop," and so is accessibl. We suply copis of the *Case* and *Plea* at a cent each and postage.

### ORTHOEPY AND ORTHOGRAFY.

It seems necessary to keep a few important points in view. One is that pronunciation when colloquial ofn difers a good deal from its solem, distinct, vocabulary or dictionary form. Bell has taut this distinctly. See *Sounds and their Relations* where, at pages 72 to 78, is givn in Visibl Speech symbols a considerabl quotation from Sydney Smith, first in "vocabulary," and then, for comparison's sake, in "colloquial style." Slurs and elisions ar frequent in the latter. These ar allowabl and posibl becaus expresion in features and tones makes the meaning plain to one or a few hearers especially if helpt by gestures. Thus, "if I had" and "if I wud" ar both "f I 'd," pronounced faid or foid, to rime with *wide*. So, "if he had" and "if he wud" become fid, to rime with *weed*. A corespondent gave an account (*HERALD*, vol. i, p. 187) of the oath administerd con-

cluding "swelpya.God"—where one wud expect solem enunciation. The British & Foreign Bible Society hav publisht John, iii, 16, in over two hundred tungs, furnishing a specimen of the Orthograpy of each. It is in pamphlet form, an interesting study, to be had on application at any branch. *The Maitre Phonétique*, Paris, is publishing the same from time to time in Orthoepy, mostly colloquial, ofn dialectic. We take it and giv it as

I—*Coloquial Orthoepy*: fər.gəd̥ sɒ.ləvd̥ ðə.wɜrld̥ ðæt̥.ɪ.gəv̥ ɪz̥.ɒn̥.li.bə.gət̥.n:sən̥ ðət̥.hū̥.swev̥.ər̥ bə̥.lɪv̥.əp̥.ɒn̥.əm̥ fud̥.n:t̥ pɛrɪf̥. bət̥.əv̥. ev̥.ər̥.læst̥.ɪg̥.ləɪf̥. Another may say: ðæt̥.hū̥.sɒ̥.ev̥.ər̥. bə̥.lɪv̥.əp̥.ɒn̥.ɪm̥. fud̥.nɔt̥.pɛrɪf̥. bət̥.hæv̥. ev̥.ər̥.læst̥.ɪg̥.ləɪf̥. These ar examples of speech in this region—that of the great lakes. In the south of England one wud be likely to hear: fə.gəd̥ sɒ̥.ləvd̥.ðə.wɜrld̥ ðæt̥.ɪ.gəv̥ ɪz̥.ɒn̥.li.bi.gət̥.n: sən̥ ðæt̥.ū̥.swev̥.ə̥ b̥.lɪv̥.əp̥.ɒn̥.ɪm̥ fud̥.nɔt̥.pɛrɪf̥. bət̥.əv̥. ev̥.əlæst̥.ɪn̥.ləɪf̥. In Scotland, *God* is gɒd, *world* is wɜ:rl: But what about Ireland, Wales, north and midland England, south Africa, Australia, New York City, etc.? From the pulpit we get

II—*Solem Orthoepy*: fɔr. god.sɒ.ləvd̥.ðə.wɜrld̥ ðæt̥.hɪ.gəv̥ hɪz̥.ɒn̥.li.be.gət̥.n: sən̥ ðæt̥.hū̥.sɒ̥.ev̥.ər̥. bə̥.lɪv̥.əp̥.ɒn̥.hɪm̥. fud̥.nɔt̥.pɛrɪf̥. bət̥.hæv̥. ev̥.ər̥.læst̥.ɪg̥.ləɪf̥.

III—*Orthograpy*: For God sɒ luvd ðe wɜ:ld ðæt̥ hɪ gəv̥ hɪz̥ ɒnli begotn sɒn ðæt̥ hū̥soev̥ belɪveth ɒn hɪm shud nɔt̥ pɛrɪsh bʊt hav ev̥erlastɪng lɪf. An esteemd corespondent in Chicago sugests uzɪng as an alternativ to the dɪlθɒŋg ɑɪ some singl symbol: hence we hav ventured to try ɪ ɪn lɪf. Shud it hav further trial?

To sum up, colloquial orthoepy is very *variabl and unstable*; the solem orthoepy of cosmopolitan speech, comparativly *fixt*.

**KEY:—** I—**AMENDED SPELLING.**  
OMIT use'les letters; CHANGE (if sounded so) d to t, ph or gh to f; let -er denote agent-nouns.

II—**ORTHOGRAPY.**  
a æ e i i o ô d u u ũ  
as in at art eil ale ill eel nor gnawer nou put do  
ask err not lawu

ðð, in *thy*, is restored Anglo-Saxon crost d. A fuller list of key-words is on p. 4, n<sup>o</sup> 51.

III—**ORTHOEPY.**  
See **THE HERALD** for April, 1897, p. 4.

IV—**FONETICS.**  
This wil be developept later.

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