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The Herald.

DEVOTED TO PRONUNCIATION AND AMENDED SPELLING.

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SLURD PRONUNCIATION

Planks 9 and 11 in our Platform are clear, even emphatic, that Orthography should reflect formal or liturgical, distinct from slovenly, speech. There has sprung up a class of linguistic students who treat colloquial speech as alone real, tabuing all other as artificial. The London *Times*, a mouthpiece of general conservatism, recently favored formal speech as being the language. It was in comment on Dr Robert Bridges becoming poet laureate in succession to two Alfreds, Tennyson and Austin. Our language is, shame to tell, best studied in Germany and America. To start to remove this stigma the English Society was formed with a Scottish branch (called Scottish Dialects committee, Wm Grant, M. A., Aberdeen, convener). The Society puts out an annual volume (*Studies and Essays*, Clarendon Press). The first, for 1910, has Bridges' essay "On the Present State of English Pronunciation." Among other slurs Bridges gives:

"First, blurring and running together weak *a, e, i, o, u* [and *y* as in *martyr*] into one indeterminate sound, or in *dinger denja*, in unstressed pronunciations of *and, the, t*; *but, must*, in *a* for *into*, pronounced *pronounce*, *t*^a *bi* or not *t*^a *bi*, from *from*, *t*^a *to*.

"Next, 'palatization,' change of *t* to *ch* before *u*-sounds, *Nature* is neycher and can hardly be saved; *don't you*, dontshew; *Tuesday*, Choozily; *tune*, chiune. And *d* in the same position is thretend, as in *immedjatly*; *aujins* for *audience*.

"Other mispronunciations: *om b. m d, im fact, im vain*, are common; *r* dropt before a consonant (*sword* and *sawd*, *Lordland*, *arms aims, mourning morning*, are now identical), and even before vowels in a younger generation (as *fua away, faw ever ev^a, pawing*

EXPLANATION: OMIT useless letters; CHANGE (if sounded so) *d* to *t*, *ph* or *gh* to *f*; *o* to *u* in *to, do, who, prove, move, believe, shoe, canoe*.

For fuller explanation and Platform see cover of Annual of New Spelling (postpaid, 10 c.)

rain for *pouring*). Ad bogus pronunciations due to unphonetic spelling and habit of 'swallowing' words, there is little doubt that speech of educated classes is undergoing serious changes."

Thus *The Times*, which proceeds:—

"These changes are regrettable. Shall they be allowed to work their way unimpeded? Conservatives in language and they who wish to exercise a conscientious care over its beauty and integrity find themselves opposed by a group of scientific linguists who regard attempts to preserve so-called 'purity' of speech as pedantic or futile. History has taught them that the ideal of a fixed language is a vain and foolish dream; they have studied past changes of pronunciation, the result of irresistible forces, and believe we might as well try to control the blood's circulation or planetary movement. 'Beauty,' 'decay,' 'degradation,' 'vulgarism,' have no meaning for them, for 'no difference or superiority can be recognized between speech in a village alehouse and that of the Bench of Bishops.'"

Having reached this "irreconcilable difference" what are we to do about it? If we take the course downward we shall go down, down, (plank 9) until, in words of the Chicago *Dial*, itself conservative:—

"will the language, by clipping and slurring, be reduced to a system of monosyllabic grunts, help out by gesture and facial expression?"

The Times says farther:—

"It is useless to try to defeat science with the bludgeons and blunderbusses of ignorance and prejudice; our conservatives must arm themselves with weapons more modern. Fortunately, Bridges combines with the sensitiveness of a man of letters thorough acquaintance with new-novelty methods. . . . With him the question is aesthetic as well as scientific; that it is no fancy to see beauty in human speech and wish to preserve it. Belief that phonetic decay can not be checked, conscientious reform impossible, he thinks a doctrinaire notion, for successful efforts have occurred before now."

PLEA FOR ONE NEW LETTER

New letters must come if our language is to keep alive at all [as one, not splitting into several] No real grasp of

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filologic truth is posibl (unless tu a few born filologers) tu them hu no only the Roman alfabet.. This miserabl hodge-podge ov vowels and consonants is a cage wherein the filological soul ov Europ and America is imprisond. . . . My mind was never fully emancipated on speling til I lernd the Paali and Sanscrit alfabet. Before Crist, when our British forefathers wer dying their skins violet and eating roots in the woods, and our English ones pirats, the Hindu gramarian Paanini had tho't out a logical alfabet, and succeeding gramarians perfected it in that land ov ancient lerning. The Hindu alfabet is aranged according tu the organs ov speech employd. . . . Adopt a new letter for the neutral vowel, the first in Paali and Sanscrit alfabet. In English it is the comonest sound ov A, as herd in *a* (not emfatic) and *America*.—A. J. EDMUNDS, author ov *Buddhist and Christian Gospels*, in *Jur. Or. & Or.*, Oct., '07.

[Skeat said that the sign for the vowel in *but*, *come*, etc., is the crux ov the alfabetic question. The sound is not cosmopolitan and shud not hav any old-vowel sign any more than 5 shud stand for *eleven*. It is one ov (or akin tu) the a-family. French *ə* in *leur*, *peu*, *dieu*, is much like it, but is labialized, while ours (like the a-clan generally) is not, unless very exceptionaly in some dialect. In the '30s Hon. John Pickering ov Boston proposed *u*, ov which American misionaries made use—witness the Ojibway Testament revewd in our pages Nov., 1886. In later '70s the Am. Sp. Reform Aso'n used *u*, tho an u-sign, in spite ov Whitney hu taut that it was "akin tu a." U has been used considerably in America ever since, tho the Amer. Dialect Soc'y and Mod. Lang. Aso'n du not folo, but use a-symbols. In 1883 the Eng. Speling Ref. Aso'n bro't out a considerabl specimen with *u* (*must* was *must*, *come* *kum*, *up* *up*, etc.) In 1883 Murray, riting key tu pronunciation for NED, used *u* aslant (*v*) tu hav it correspond tu *i*, *e*, *o*, *u*, in *thief*, *they*, *no*, *rule*. The great primary tense vowels (calld "naro" in Bell-Ellis-Sweet nomenclature) ar represented by slant or italic symbols in NED. Ther is no sign for tense-a where we expect *a*. We drew atention tu this at botm ov p. 130. NED recognizes no tense-a in the language, tho giving secondary or lax-a a symbol (*a*) along with *i*, *e*, *æ*, *o*, *u*. NED teaches that tense-a has dropt out from the "receivd" language, while an other tense a-vowel (in *come*, etc.) has developt. Ov this ther ar two forms, tense and lax. Ellis (whose sign is *ə* for the tense one) agrees with Murray

in chusing it as "receivd." Sweet and Bell chuse the lax one (Ellis' *u*, by him considerd provincial). "Doctors difer." Passy used *œ* in the later '80s (*come* was *koem*, see our p. 227); later *Λ*, an A-sign for which *a* is rectified script. *ɹ* is the latter haf ov *a* or 'a', and the first haf ov *v*. Willing tu accept *Λ* or *a*, our *ɹ* is preferd for reasons fysiologic and analogic as explaind on pages 216, 235].

LONDON COLOQUIAL

The pronunciation of Sheridan in 1780, revized by Walker in 1791, and by Smart from 1834 tu 1850, is in efect that of the standard dictionaries tудay. It is givn in their dictionaries in many editions. Walker and Smart wer Londoners, teachers of elocution. In London yet the old London speech is much as they gave it. This is the old speech mentiond on our page 196. But ther came intu east London especialy a degraded and slurd new speech. Cokny overflows and suplants the old, as "Bowery dialect" crowds the better speech of New York state. Cokny invades Belgravia; the Bowery invades Fifth Avenue.

Dr A. J. Ellis givs a specimen of London colloquial (in articl on Phonetics in Chambers' Encyclopedia) bro't out as an offset or antidote tu Sweet's Belgravian colloquial, then pusht forward, "the cynosure ov all eyes" according tu our Plank 9, for a generation til Sweet's deth in 1912. This pronouncement by such a remarkabl leader and worker as Ellis receives not the atention deservd, especialy as Ellis made a selection ov words tu elucidate many a moot point. We transliterate intu HERALD Notation, correcting two misprints in *carefully* and *one*.—

aa^afaa^əð^a, aim^fū^a ð^at^əðæt nyūbraan^tf əvau^a
 əjo^dʒz fevr^t wudbain, witfiz grō^g nī^əð^a
 pōst notfaafra^mð^a no^b wo^lav^əð^a gna^dn,
 m^astbiseft^a me^jər əbaut tūfⁱt o^mə^r in-
 lenç^ə t^ədey, əules sⁱm mishæpiz o^cri^g
 o^rit^az^sɹⁱdnli lostits yūjū^əl vait^əl en^adʒi; fər
 aiv ke^afuli əbz^av^dits rēt əv incris ev^ari-
 wik ðis m^an^əb, ənnōt^əl^tdaun ækyū^rtli
 onyū^a slet, ənainōw it^azeczpi^ari^anst nōve^a-
 riē^fən, baari^g w^ans dyu^ari^ga desp^retli
 əno^g int^av^əl əvcōld po^ari^g ren.¹

Lak ov space forbids discussion ov a hundred points raisd. We ask atention tu

¹Ah! father, I am sure, that that new branch ov our George's favorit woodbine, which is groing near the post not far from the north wall ov the garden, must be safe tu mesure about two feet, or more, in length tu day, unless some mishap is occurring or it has sudnly lost its usual vital energy; for I hav carefully observd its rate ov increase evry week this month, and noted it down acuratly on yur slate, and I no it has experienced no variation, barring once, during a desperatly anoying interval ov cold, pouring rain.

(1) e is not e', much les ei, becoming ei or ey when folod by a paus only, including drawling speech.

(2) Similarly, o is not o', nor ou, but may be ou or ow after a paus.

(3) i is not iy nor i' but a monofthong.

(4) u is not uw nor u' but a monofthong.

(5) wh in *when* is leveld tu w, is not hw nor Δ = voiceles (aspirated) w = w'

(6) o in *George, wall*, etc., is open-o-tense, o', not open-o-lax-held, o, far more comon in natives ov N. America.

(7) e in "care" is open-e-held or prolonged, but whether tense or lax is not clear. By analogy it shud be tense, as Bell and Sweet consider it. Ellis appears tu agree with NED's e, open-e-lax-prolongd, as noted in an other column.

(8) i, e, o, u, when before r rin, become i, e, o, u, folod by a very weak neutral or breth-glide. Thus, *near* is ni^a (This explains such rhimes as *spirit near it* in Shelley's *Sky-lark*)

(9) 1-tense is used, never 1-lax. Before dropt r (as in *observd*), 1 is held or prolonged (r' = r')

NOTES ON PRONUNCIATION.

[See Plank 22. Cont'd from pp. 203, 206 231, 235]

(w) We Cubans hav spoken no language other than Spanish, tho some can speak, as our "Nigger language," English.—A.P. ENCINOSA in *Saturday Review*, 26 Oct. '07. Take this along with note g on page 191: "Suthern whites despise r-dropping as 'Nigger talk,' prefering northern teachers for their children. Emigration is from north tu south alone."

We hav had Canadian governesses chosen for this reason in Cuba and the South, as speech there is tabu'd as "Nig^a to:k," northern speech geting preference, and is soon tu hav no rival, since New England speech, of sister origin tu suthern speech (see our page 181), is likely doomed tu disapear (acording tu pages 155, 163).

(r) In *Edinboro of* is (not ov, but) of. Sylabls du not end with a voiced consonant in German: *lieb* is lip, *zug tsu A. hund* hunt. This prevails in Scotland: *beyond* is a yont, *connected* con nek it, *enjoyd* en djoit Was this speech habit bro't by the Angles hu extended tu and beyond the Frith ov Forth? Is *Edinboro of* a survival?

(y) *The Test* puts on record that a public lecturer, askt how he pronounced *of*, anserd, "ov, of cōrs" — tho't tu sho that a good speaker of his gard givs f. We believ v became f thru influence ov an after-coming voiceles consonant (c) in "cōrs." Atraction ("asimilation") ever goes on in speech. Abstract sounds, consider them 'apart from neighboring fones, the lesson co ived by "Lern tu Abstract Sounds" on p. 220. Read the first line in Wright's *Eng. Dialect Dict'y*.

A RETRACTION ABOUT OF

In our articl on p. 234 with heding "F, S and TH" we declined tu spel *of* as "ov" becaus an old Anglo-Saxon rule as tu f, s and th apeard tu cover all three. As tu f this rule "is onord more in the breach than in the observance" now-a-days, for a rule ("Nouns in f or fe change f or fe tu ves in the plural") is folod by all. The old rule apears valid stil as tu s and th. When f sounds v it is speld v so often as tu make it wel tu let the comon word *of* du so too: *of* is "ov," *off* is "of".

NEWS-NOTES AND COMMENTS

—The SSBoard publisht but one number ov its *Bulletin* in 1915, presumably due tu lak ov paid-up subscriptions. Speling reformers ar ful ov talk, fond ov "hatching one scheme after an other" (Sweet), but "as poor as church mice" in pocket, poorer stil in spirit, afraid ov work on ploding lines. Ther ar noble exceptions.

—The SSSociety in 1915 publisht its organ, the *Pioneer* (ov late speld *Pyoneer* with questionabl impruvment), as a bi-monthly in sted ov monthly — due tu the War.

—HERALD subscribers ov \$1 a year receive each as many copies as can be distributed tu advantage in letters or otherwise, with a missionary purpose.

—Lyman Abbott celebrated in December his 80th birthday. As an apt interpretation ov his message tu the world some one sent him:

If the day looks kinder gloomy,
And yur chances kinder slim,
If the situation 's puzzlin'
An' the prospect 's awful grim;
An' perplexities keep pressin'
Til all hope is nearly gon.
Just bristl up an' grit yur teeth,
An' keep on keepin' on.

—Mr Douglass, ov Toronto, is a leading singl-taxer. He encourages simpler speling by precept, but not by exampl. Long we urged him tu ston making "ass" ov his name by dropping an s as du other Duglases, but without effect. He sees imaginary "lions in the way."

—Dr W. F. Coleman, oculist, aurist and electrician, Chicago, rites that no changes shud be made in speling personal names. In Vienna they told him his name shud be speld Kohlmann after German analogies — outrageous, he said.

—Relativs often spel the same name in difrent ways. In these pages we instanced brothers Macnachtan and McNaughton. How about Coburns and Cockburns? Variety in the same name is a teror tu makers ov directories.

—As a rule speling reformers admit and act up tu Dr Coleman's contention in the same language—not in an other. Herr Kohlsaht, hu has so many restaurants in Chicago, might just as wel be shokt at Colesah!.

—We say "in the same langage" — for transliteration intu an other presents difficulties. Russian has 38 (some count but 34) letters in its alfabet. We hav but 23 efectiv ones.

—Mendelejef (French Mendeléieff) is how we wud spel the name ov the great Russian chemist, the greatest since Lavoisier, Priestley and Dalton laid the foundations ov chemistry a century ago. The Germans put it Mendelejeff, or translate it intu Mendelssohn. The English make absurd jumps-in-the-dark at it.

QUERIES AND COMMENTS

My main contention is for cosmopolitan vowels. Exact Speling [eclectic word-forms] will be workt out after the principl is establisht. Sudan, thru, Duma, Hindu, Rumania, bambu, kangaru [caribu, canu, shu, tabu, Kalamazu, tu, hu, chuse, pruv, Manitu, Pictu], etc., ar very important tu educate the public as tu tru use ov *u*.

Intrusiv *r* in *wash* (wort) is comon in elderly rustics in Michigan. I say hwa, wa, with a-stopt, not o-stopt unless folod by *r* or *l*: [wan d^{er}, hwat, waf, wat^{er}]; but wor, solt, tol (*war, salt, tall*). I hav herd Yankees say salt; and some Irish, war, tal. No census has included pronunciation. The easy way tu make a dictionary is tu copy! Professors in our university here say p^{er}n, also p^{et}n. Which is better? I incline tu p^{et}n, p^{et}r^{et}, næf^{en} (tho never næf^{en}, ever næf^{en}).

Some dialects hav pronunciations tu be preservd in speling (fern, term, in Scottish, e. g.). I say *air, share*, etc., with æ, not e, nor ɛ. In yur "provisional New Speling" put aer, shaer, etc.

Ann Arbor, Mich.

C. S. BURT.

[See Æ in NED which says truly "æ prolongd is a comon American pronunciation ov *bear, hair, there*." In north Britan ɛ prevails. Sir I. Pitman used e in *there*, etc., and in *ale, they*, yet acknoledgd that in his district, south-west England, they wer difrent. NED givs *bear, bare*, as bæ^a, wherin æ is e (in *yet*) prolongd, ^a is our ^a or near it, ^a is reverted r, comon in sou-w. Eng. Speling shud not distinguish ^a and r. Acordingly, "bear" appears tu giv NED's pron. Otherwise we wud hav northern (Anglo-Scottish) ber, or American bæ^r, as the *Standard Dict'y* indicates. We folo NED or *St.* when they agree—see "One or Other" on p. 162-3—but when they du not agree—"aye, there's the rub." These statements ar not put forth as dogma or final, but tu sho the actual as mirord in two authorities recent, leading and selected by Dr Scott. Like Bos Tweed we ask (in face ov Plank 15) "Wel, what ar yu going tu du about it?" If American (including Canadian and the riter's) pronunciation is tu prevail, the suggestion aer, shaer, etc., seems excelent and worth trial in New Speling on Pauls' guiding principl:—"Try all, adopt the good."—EDITOR.

In provisional New Speling]

GUD AND IVIL — A BIZ CHOIS

Sed a litl wond'ring mēden
Tu a bī wið hāni lēden:

"Bī, in ol ðe flau'rz yu werk,
Yet in sām dāth poizon lerk."

"Dat ai no, mai litl mēden,"

Sed ðe bī wið hāni lēden;

"Bīt ðe poizon ai forsekk,
And ðe hāni, onle, tek."

"Cāning bī wið hāni lēden,

ðat iz rait," replaid ðe mēden,

"So wil ai, from ol ai mīt,

Onle tek ðe gud and swit."

LABORARE EST ORARE

(tu-werk iz tu-pru)

Think not ðat ðe grēsez shumber

Hwail ai toil thruaut ðe ðe,

For ol onist werk iz wership,

And tu lebor iz tu pre.

Think not ðat ðe hevnlī blesing

From ðe werkmānz hand remuvz;

Hu dīz best hiz task apointed

Him ðe Master most apruvz.

A WUMANZ AVAUAL

Let āderz, bī ðer sīch, aspāir

Tu a rezaunding laif,

Living infed ðe haushold fair

For hīt ov pablic straif:

Ai am content, tu chuz, ðo frī,

In no sīch pād̄z tu rōm,

And onle inherd helpmēt bī

Tu him hu gardz mai hōm.

Bīt ai can nerv him for ðe fre

Hwen deutī nīdz hiz arm,

Chring him onward ðe bai ðe

Wið hvz atendant charm.

And hwen hī mē contend no moar,

After long strenyu's yīrz,

Ai mē hiz wening strength restoar

Wið tendernes and tīrz.

Hiz clozeng ðez wil wok wið main

Daun ejez jentl slōp,

ðe shado ov ðat dīr declain

Braitend bai length'ning hōp.

And shud hī hens ðe ferst depart,

Az, for hiz sēk, ai crēv,

Ai shal embam him in mai hart

And sanctifai hiz grēv.

—Alfred Austin.

KEY: ð e ɪ ɹ ō ū oi ai au eu
as in they see us old rule oil aisle owl few
(Marking o or u is unnecessary in open syllabls
and some other definit positions.)

Alfabet: aabcdðeəfghirjklmnoqrstuvwyz