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The Herald.

DEVOTED TO PRONUNCIATION AND AMENDED SPELING.

4TH YEAR.

TORONTO, CANADA, May, 1888.

NR 34

Why two *ts* in *ditty*, one in *city*?

M^r L. Lyon writes from Conneaut, O.: "The only way to mend sp. is to keep at work. It will take several years to establish an alfabet."

It is much to be regreted that *d* was allowed to fall out of use. The sound is not at all a compound of those of *t* and *h*, by uniting which we indicate it. It is a perfectly simpl sound as much so as *s*; and it wud be wel if filologists undertaking to simplify sp. wud advocate restoring *d*. . . *Ther* wud be no difficulty, or very litt, in bringing it gradually into vog. *R. G. White.*

W. -Before the Conquest *W* was litt used. Where Anglo-Saxon printed books hav it, manuscripts hav the old Rune *p*. After the Conquest, when many Romance words begining with *V* wer coming in, a distinction had to be made between this sound and that of old *p*, the later was represented by dubl *v*. It must carefully be observed that novelty as to *W* was in the character, not in sound. The sound *w* was ancient, and on it an interesting question rises:—Whether this sound, now a chief characteristic of our language amid its family, was contracted in this land by mingling of Saxons with British Kelts, or is relic of a once pangothic sound, which has faded evrywhere els, alike in Teuton and Scandinavian worlds.—*Earle's Philol.* The last statement needs qualification: *w* is comon in curent German orthograpy, but is invariably pronounced *v* in "the best" German—ther is no sound *w*. In some districts, however, where pronunciation is considerd more or les dialectic, *w* is sounded, not *v*, but as we do. What is the conection between these districts and Britan in linguistic history (paralel to ethnology) has yet to be elucidated.

NEW SUBSCRIBERS.

M^r Curzon, Toronto (got by *Hamilton*).
Prof. Ewing, Notre Dame, Indiana, (got by *Cosmopolitan Shorthander*).
Kansas Historic Society, Topeka, Kan., (paid by M^r *Knudsen*, Jan. '85 to Dec. '99.)
Three aded to club, Toronto, (*Roberts*.)

"AMENDED SPELIN."

(From *Canadian Silent Observer*, Toronto.)

We hav received *The Herald*, publishd in Toronto, "devoted to pronunciation and amended spelin." The editor thinks the reforms in orthograpy that he advocates in his litt paper ar calculated to benefit mankind, especially def-mutes. [We hav put it "speling" never "spelin." We hav never said anything about special adaptability to the def-dum. Why misrepresent so?] He concludes, from some source of information, that the system of instruction adopted in the Ontario Institution is defectiv in one particular, and that the education of the def in Canada needs his help to become respectabl. [Great Caesar!] It is quite evident that he has a very imperfect nledge of def-mute instruction, and imagins that "lip-reading" constitutes the basis of proceeding. [Yu "imagin."] The "combined system," which prevails in nearly all scools for the def on this continent, is favord in the Ontario Institution. It consists of the oral, manual and sign language. . . Few def-mutes can be successfullly taut the purely oral method. In the Ont. Institu'n, out of 240, not over 40 ar capabl, and ar under an experienced and traind teacher. The rest find the manual alfabet and sign language more suitabl and make good progres. We admit that English contains irregular orthograpy, but the *Herald's* reforms ar not likely to find favor with the public. They ar too radical. Def-mutes especially no very litt about "a fotograf of sounds" as the eye is the principal medium of instruc'n. If compeld to choose between the *Herald's* "complete alfabet" [ther is no such thing] and Volapük, another kind of speling reform [Is it? We tho't it the new world-speech.] we wud take the later—for brevity, anyway: "They wil hav been loved" in Volapük is "pulöfus." Only that, and nothing more. [This sentence has no verb!] Can the *Herald* beat that? [No, go foot: take yur "spelin" with yu!]

—Why two *ds* in *ruddy*, one in *study*?

—*W. M.*, givn some accounts to collect, returned one markt "*doughtful*!" (fact.)

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REVISED SPELLING: OMIT useless letters. CHANGE *d* to *t*, *ph* to *f*, *gh* to *f*, if sounded so.

PURPOS OF A PRIMER.

A suitable primer should fulfil four conditions: (1) It should thro'out be a *drill on sounds*, so as to lay foundation for distinct and accurate pronunciation. (2) The spelling it gives should be approximately free from the too numerous irregularities of our orthog. at least so far as is compatible with (3) Allowing ready transition to ordinary literature, the bridge to which will be books of the Robinson Crusoe class. These sustain the pupil's interest without resort to any transition reader. (4) It should use cosmopolitan or international values of letters, not national ones. What will be the final Notation of speech-sounds for general scientific and popular use can be dimly forecast to some extent, depending on certain fixed principles involved—Such Notation is the problem now present. The model primer should be a sort of half-way-house between current spelling and such Notation so that pupils taught by it will be so far familiar with this Notation and not puzzled by varying systems as now puzzled by different dictionary nomenclatures for indicating pronunciation. The second edition (500 copies) of Mr. Knudsen's *Primer*, just from press, gives a practical fulfilment of the four conditions better perhaps than any other in the market. No transition reader is needed. Where such is requisite it indicates that the primer has gone too far in departure from current forms of words. The *Primer* mentioned is published by Golden Bros., South Norwalk, Conn., at 25 cents. We give a specimen from the *Bee*, p. 36:

"Hwen shi has gath'erd a gud lord, shi flis hom tu her hivy, tu mak lit'l sels tu hold her hon'i, and tu kip it for the cold dus ov win'ter, hwen the flou'ers ar ol gon, and it is tu' cold for the B's tu go out."

— *World English*, a work by A. Melvil Bell, will be issued shortly (N. Y., Hodges; London, Tribner) demonstrating fitness of Eng. for adoption as universal language. The only drawback to its extension hitherto has been its difficult and unsystematic spelling. "World English" provides an amended alphabet, with new letters for unrepresented sounds. Ordinary orthography remains undisturbed as "literary Eng." The aspect of words is so little unlike in both systems that readers of either will decipher the other without special instruction. — *The Week*.

THE DEF-DUM.

(To Editor Canadian Silent Observer.)

SIR,—Your paragraph is a surprise as these pages have never had a word about "the def-dumb in general nor "the Ontario Institution" in particular. Did your supper disagree? and give you nightmare? Ar you "spoiling for a fight?" and so attack one until now quite dumb, (altho neither blind nor deaf), like the doughty Spanish Don Quixot, who attacked a wind-mil, to show how brave he was!

You object that changes are "too radical." Herein, nothing is adopted beyond

THE FIVE RULES:

1. Omit *e* from the digraf *ea* when pronounced as *e*-short, as *hed*, *helth*, *spred*.
2. Omit silent *e* after a short vowel, as in *inav*, *giv*, *liv*, *definit*, *hostil*, *genuin*.
3. Write *f* for *ph* in such words as *alfabet*, *fantom*, *camfor*, *filosofy*, *telegraf*.
4. When a word ends with a double consonant, omit the last, as in *shal*, *clif*, *eg*.
5. Change *ed* final to *t* where it has the sound of *t*, as in *lasht*, *imprest*, *fixt*.

Farther changes are actively discussed. The spelling of this communication will exemplify the Five Rules. Any farther is yet on trial.

The opinion of Rev. David Swing, the eminent Chicago preacher, is that "we ought to make a distinction between mere feelings and reasonable feelings, for if we have permitted ourselves to become so attached to an old wooden plow that we would not exchange it for the best steel one, we are not persons of deep feelings, but rather of deep babyhood and stupidity. The human race that will from deliberate choice spell program, programme, and tizic, phthisic, and which, when its folly is pointed out, will proceed to affirm that it prefers the longest way of spelling a word, should be compelled to go back to canal-boats, pack-horses, dipt candles and sermons two hours long. Progress is a universal movement of all things."

You are doing noble work: rescuing def-mutes from being compelled to herd with idiots and imbeciles and making of them useful, intelligent and self-supporting citizens. Follow the footsteps of Abbé Sicard, Gallaudet and our own Macgann. The natural impulse of every warm heart is "to lend a hand" to such work, and "give a lift" to def-mutes. In refusing to help mend spelling, however, you keep a stumbling-block in their way. What would you think of a man who keeps stumbling-blocks and pitfalls before a blind man! Yet this is what the spelling you use does for def-mutes, more particularly for those who learn lip-reading. Silent letters are stumbling-blocks, pitfalls, and mislead. The silent *b* in *debt* and *doubt* misleads the trusting def-mute to expect before *t* in each word a voiced labial, *b*, indicating complete closure of lips which does

not occur in either word. This is but one example of thousands that might be given. Again, in ph the confiding def-mute expects p to indicate complete closure of lips, followed by forcible expulsion of breath indicated by h. But ph represents f, not a labial, but a labio-dental, formed between lower lip and upper teeth. Another difference: there is no complete closure but narrowing only or approximat closure. To write f does not mislead and is truthful. Is it "too radical" to be truthful?

Come, Mr. *Observer*, help remove these stumbling-blocks and pit-falls, give up your prejudices, adopt sound principles, and you will do your noble work more nobly.

EDITOR.

Toronto, 20th March.

[*The *Observer* is a little semi-monthly, published in Toronto, edited by tutors in the government school for the def-dum at Belvil, Ont. It is a sort of school journal for present and past pupils. The above was sent in six weeks ago in answer to an unprovoked attack in its issue of 15th March, and was not inserted. Its motto is "Be just and fear not." Its conduct shows that is put there "to look well," to be lip-profess, not practis! els it wud do justice where it had misrepresented.]

We ar sorry that "the Ontario Institution" shud hav givn indubital proof that it is behind the age in amendment of spelling. Elsewhere there is a different tone. At conventions of instructors of the def-dum, regret is expressed that the stumbling-block of arbitrarily irregular spelling is kept in the way. The *Amer. Annals of the Def and Dum* (Washington) for Oct., 1881, urges that teachers of the def-dum shud be specially interested in getting sp. mended, and says, "There ar abundant reasons, economic, filologic, moral and filanthropic, why every intelligent person shud favor improvement in orthog. There is peculiar reason why the moderat and practical efforts which our leading scolars ar now making in this direction shud hav earnest suport of all teachers and friends of the def." That is surely a different and more commendabl tone than the *Observer's*.

Between the manualists and oralists there is a conflict. We fear it may be as unending as that of the realists and nominalists in middle ages. If we ar to judge "the Ontario Institution" by its stick-in-the-mud orthographic proclivities, we fear that finding but 17 per cent. of pupils (40 in 240) suitable for oral instruction, and that more as an accomplishment, is hardly what is expected in these days. Of the 90 schools for the def-dum in Germany, all ar oral—no other method is pursued there. Of the 17 in Austria-Hungary, all ar oral. Of the 11 in Switzerland, all ar oral. Of the two schools in Genoa, one uses the combined

method. The other 34 schools in Italy all use the oral method. Now this is not a mushroom growth. It is the result of Heinicke's labors, and he flourished over a century ago. We had some knowledge of Van Praagh's early struggles and labors in London to introduce into the British Isles a system so general on the continent. How has he succeeded in his work as an apostle of a better way? Of the 11 schools in London, all ar oral (that at Clapton perhaps excepted,) an astonishing result in a country slow to change their old ways. For all that, the oral method shud hardly supersede altogether the manual and sign language. It is rather a question of their rightful division. For that, the careful examinations of Dr. De Rossi, at Rome, and of Dr. Roosa (pronounce Roza), in N. Y., furnish important data. The results of Hartmann's statistics in Berlin ar perhaps unreliable, founded as they ar on collections of answers, not on personal examination. We wait to see if the line is to stand at 17 per cent., which, where other methods ar in use simultaneously, wil give an actual use of less than 5 per cent.; perhaps 1 or 2 per cent.—a farce.

Æ AND Œ.—Some time ago we gave a quotation in which Prof. Skeat urged the general substitution of e for æ and œ. This was favorably commented on by the *British Medical Journal*. It, however, does not put it in practice: VIDEO MELIORA, PROBAGVE; DETERIORA SEQVOR (Ovid). Such words ar very common in medical literature, as *hemorrhage* (from Greek *haima*), *dysmenorrhœa*, etc. For a long time past there has been going on a general abandonment of æ and œ. Thus in *economy* (from Greek *oikos*) œ has been superseded by e, altho in some very "old school" writers we wil occasionally find "œconomy" and a few like out-of-date spellings. We find that *The Medical World* of Philadelphia has adopted the change. In April issue we find *hemorrhage*, *amenorrhœa*, *gonorrhœa*, *homœopathic*, *hyperæsthesia*, *hemorrhoidal*, *ether* (but properly *Æther* when Latin), *hematoma*, *œdema*, *dyspnœa*, *diarrhœa*, *fœtus*, and so on thruout. *Anemia*, *hypercœmia*, *urœmia*, and many others hav been gradually coming into vogue. Altho these last ar found in the *World* we dont esteem them novelists. The *St. Louis Courier of Medicin* claims that it antedated the *World* in making the change. The *New York American Journal of Obstetrics* antedated both. The *St. Louis Weekly Medical Review* favors the change. When we consider the *British Medical Journal's* stupid conservatism and compare it with this evidence of cisatlantic progressiveness, we ar not surprised at another of Skeat's statements: "Whether we shal ever get a true sp. reform is doubtful. If so, it wil come from America."

LITERATURE.

SOLOMON'S SONG with Introduction and Notes, by C. W. Larison, M.D., Fonic Publishing House, Ringos, N. J., 1887, 64 pp., 16 mo. Cloth boards. Mailing price 55 cents.

It is alwys more pleasant to report progress than the revers. This lil book, in a 12-vowel alfabet, is an improvement on some of Dr. Larison's former works in so far as he has dropt all markt letters and now denotes diference of sound by diferentiation only. By improvement being thus noted, the reader may fairly infer that ther wer blemishes in previus works not found in this which wer not pointed out. Ther is still room for further improvement. We fear that his pronunciation wil not be accepted in all points. The pure gold must be refined by fire—the fire of critical comparison wil purify this. We content ourselvs by recommending the reader to get the book, examin it carefully, but critically, and send his likes and dislikes to the author, as a means of "seting him right" where yu conceiv him wrong. The publication ads another to an already fast-growing bibliography. It is a worthy addition, one that must hav cost much tho't and care. Those who do, like Dr. L., ar a hundredfold more serviceabl than those who talk only.

SWEDISH & SPANISH.—In Sweden, where certn amendments hav been admited by the Academy, the speling agitation continues. The Neografers don't hesitate to aply their principls to works they publish. It is in Amended Sp that Prof. Noreen, of University of Upsala, has printed his history of Nors Languages (*De Nordiska spraken*) and his remarkabl treatis on the Corection of Languages (*on Språkriktighet*). Profs. Tegner, Lyttkens and Wulff hav done the same. Nations even who enjoy an orthog. comparatively rational ar trying to improve it. Thus, the Spaniards, whose orthograpy, after several reforms, has become almost fonetic, now demand supresion of ç, g soft, v (useles with them?) and h mute.—*Buletin Mansuel*. How improvements already made in Spanish orthog. wer bro't about wud be interesting. We hav for a long time been trying to find some account of it. Treatises on Spanish lang. and literature ar silent so far as we no. Is it not within the province of the *Buletin Mansuel* to giv us a history of Amended Sp. in Spain, as also in Sweden and Holland? In Spain's sister kingdom, Portugal, sp. is stil very irregular.

Young Eighty-eight,
We pat your peight,
And trust you'll not decrease in weight.
Be tempereight,
Tobacco height,
And don't stay out until its leight.

DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLS.

"1. The tru and sole office of alfabetie riting is faithfully and inteligibly to represent spokn speech. So-called "historical" orthograpy is only concession to weaknes of prejudice.

"2. The ideal of an alfabet is that evry sound shud hav its own unvarying sign, and evry sign its own unvarying sound.

"3. An alfabet intended for use by a vast community need not attempt an exhaustive analysis of elements of utterance, and a representation of the nicest varieties of articulation; it may wel leav room for the unavoidable play of individual and local pronunciation.

"4. An ideal alfabet wud seek to adopt for its characters forms which shud suggest the sounds signified, and of which the resemblances shud in some mesure represent similaritis of sounds. But for general practical use ther is no advantage in a system which aims to depict in detail the fysical proceses of utterance.

"5. No language has ever had, or is likely to hav, a perfect alfabet: and in changing and amending the mode of riting a language already long ritn, regard must necessarily be had to what is practically possibl quite as much as to what is inherently desirabl.

"6. To prepare the way for such change, the first step is to break down by combined influence of enlightnd scolars and practical educators, the immens and stubborn prejudice which regards establisht modes of speling almost as constituting language, as having a character, as in themselvs preferabl to others. All agitation and all definit proposals of reform ar welcomed, so far as they work in this direction.

"7. An alterd orthograpy wil be unavoidably offensiv to those who ar first calld upon to use it, but any sensibl and consistent new system wil rapidly win harty preference of mas of riters.

"8. The Roman alfabet is so widely and firmly establisht in use among leading civilized nations that it can not be displaced: in adapting it to improved use for English, the efforts of scolars shud be directed tords its use with uniformity, and in conformity with other nations."—*Buletin*.

—Compare laughter and slaughter.

—*Antipyrin*, a new remedy, is the way they spel it in Germany, where it originated. Why do many of our papers put a final silent e after it, for which ther is no justification, as last sylabl is not accented? Even the *Philad. Med. World* givs it as "antipyrine." We hav too many worse than useless leters already—giv us relief from new ones! Dont forget to drop e from the endings ine and ile in unaccented syllabls (as genuin, fertil, hostil, etc.) as the silent e leads to faulty pronunciation.