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The Herald.

DEVOTED TO PRONUNCIATION AND AMENDED SPELLING.

VOL. II, 2.

TORONTO, CANADA, April, 1897.

NR. 52.

FIRST LINE OF ADVANCE. AMENDED (OR REVIZED) SPELLING.

As a first stage, the question is how far we shud progress with likelihood that the Public wil agree—agreement manifested by the Pres (an arbiter nearly absolute) accepting, and a good-natured, indifrent Public permitting, as it permitted *k* dropt from *musick*, *traffick*, etc., erlier in this century.

Now, a law of mechanics is "Motion is in direction of least resistance." We shud move so too if the direction is aproved by valid reasons. "Be sure yu 'r right, then go ahead," said Davey Crocket. Whether a step is right or not depends on its agreement with establisht Principles of Orthograpy, which it is not time now to elucidate. Suffice it to say that Omisions ar accepted more redily than Changes. Omisions and Changes compose nearly all reform. Dropping leters manifestly superfluos meets favor: as Tennyson (a prominent acter in spelling reform circles) says:—

"That man 's the true conservative
Who lops the withered branch away."

In these pages we first take the curent Spelling, but, when two or more forms ar in use, select the simpler, if at all authorized, (as *adz*, *plow*, *wagon*, *program*, *rime*, *ax*, *wo*, *favor*) and then ar guided by these Principles (Shal we call them Rules?):—

OMIT (fonetically) useles leters;

CHANGE (if sounded so) *d* to *t*, and *ph* or *gh* to *f*; let *-er* denote agent-nouns; as in *telegraft*, *flurisht*, *laf*, *governer*, *soliciter*.

The resultant difers from establisht Spelling in many word-forms, and so is calld Amended Spelling. It is red as redily as establisht Spelling, producing minimum of resistance or friction, litl likely to alarm prejudice or provoke oposition in any one at all inclined to amelioration. It may be calld Revized Spelling, becaus analogos to the Revized Version of Scripture, in making which revizers, not to awake bigotry or disturb wont, kept even too close to the Authorized Version.

GRADES OF LETERS.

Our preceding issue had 4 misprints in which *e* was not corected to *e*, viz., "encuragement" for encouragement on page 1, "done" for done, "spel for spel, on page 2, and "fuler" for fuler, on p. 3. In some unintentional way a few *e*'s, a form uzed by March, Vickroy, Knudsen, Larison and others, got into the *e*-box. Now, *e* is so like *e* that few readers wud note the difrence until attention was directed. Slight difrences ar les markt in printers' "proof" than in ful impresion becaus ofn dul and blurd and so escape corection. This exemplifies the conclusion that *e* shud not be uzed with *e*. Indeed, *c* and *e* ar ofn confounded—an argument for rejecting *c* and retaining *k*. Correspondents rite us about Prof. "Victor" when we certnly put "Viotor" (see p. 2 of number 51,) which but servs to show that in legibility *c* is of low grade. If to the pair *ce*, we ad *ee* and *ec*, then likelihood of eror is multiplied by 3. Ten years ago a report was made on legibility of leters (epitomized in *Science* for 5th Feb., 1886.) We quote:—

"Mr J. Cattell has recently publisht in 'Mind' the results of studis upon brain and eye inertia. Some alfabets ar harder to see than others, and difrent leters of the same alfabet ar not equally legibl. It seems probabl that two varietis of leters, capital and small, is more of hurt than help to eye and brain. Ornaments on leters hinder: consequently German type is injurios. Simpler geometric forms ar easiest to see. Lines must not be too thin. We judge from thik lines: it is doubtful whether it is best to uze thin and thik lines in print. From all these considerations it appears that we hav not improved on Roman leters."

In the Augustan age, capital forms only wer uzed. From inscriptions we no that lines wer of equal thiknes, thus:—

DEI LEGIBVS OBSEQVAMVR

These leters ar now ofn calld "blok leters" by painters and others. They ar considerd very legibl. As to modern leters:

"Certn leters wer uzually red corectly, others wer uzually misred or not seen at all. Out of a series having each leter repeated 270 times, W was seen 211 times, F only 63 times. Order of legibility: WZMDHKNXAYOGLQISCTRPBVFUJE. Certn leters, as S and C, ar hard to recognize in themselves; others ar mistaken for leters similar in form, as O and Q."

Oculists comonly uze sets of "blok letters" of difrent sizes to test vision for distance. Capitals alone with some figures ar uzed. The foloing pairs ar ofn mistak en:—CG, OC, OG, BR, BE, EF, PF, YT, S5, A4, OQ, GQ, CQ, KE, KR, KB, ER, S3, I1, OD, and 2 is calld a. I and J ar much alike, and this makes mistakes especially in script. J is ofn oमित for this reason, as from Euclid's figures, etc. Now, if Ө is put in the alfabet, these pairs will be increast in number by ӨO, ӨC, ӨG, ӨQ, ӨQ. Ө, apart from O, is not distinctiv, and is without character except so far as it boros it from O. Greek has both O and Ө, but Ө is a consonant, and is fairly distinct in its capital form; its lower-case form is Ө, redily distinguisht from o. Further,

"Our entire alfabet and orthog. need recasting. [Speling does not deserv to be calld orthograpy.] In modifying present leters, or introducing new forms, simplicity and distinctnes must be so't. "The small leters show similar difrence of legibility. Out of 100 trials, d was red 87 times, s only 28 times. Order of distinctnes is: dkmqhbpu ljtvszrofnaxyeigs."

Notice that e and c ar among the last. If Ө be aded, it wil be very low, and wil degrade o with itself. Again, the smaller the size of type the more objectionabl—it is simply impracticabl in small sizes.

We conclude that Ө and Ө ar *very poor* alfabetic symbols. This is not givn dogmatically, but with others' and our reasons after trial since 1883. "Prove all things, hold fast that which is good;" *test* evrything, *adopt* the best.

OBITUARY:—SIR ISAAC PITMAN.

During the last few years many noble workers among us hav fallen.



To ELLIS, WHITNEY, FRICKE, HILL, GRAHAM, and KNUDSEN is now aded PITMAN—Sir Isaac Pitman, who was worthily knighted in 1894, and who shed luster on knighthood, was born, 4th Jan., 1813, at Trowbridge, ten miles east of Bath, Eng., where he died, 22d Jan. last. Askt, in 1892, in what way his admirers cud best mark his reaching 80 years, as was done for FRICKE not very long before, he

anserd by teling them to form a "Speling Leeg." This was done, Prof. Max Mueller being president, himself taking the activ duties of secretary. To the last, he was Ajix in fight against the citadel of irregular speling, Hektor in defens of a beter way, tho from his years he shud rather hav been Nestor in counsel. His life was very activ, being at his desk at 6 a. m., until sumer of 1894, when dropsy of legs, apt to accompany hart diseases, wardn to moderation in work. On partial recovery, he gave up his main work, publishing a weekly shorthand jurnal and shorthand books, to his two sons, but projected "The Speler," an eight-page monthly, publisht regularly for 1895,

1896, and even Jan., 1897. It was in a revized speling with old leters only. In Sept. last, weaknes, shortnes of breth, without pain, trubid much—symptoms due to dropsy in the trunk. He kept on working, however, by a clerk's help, dictating a note to us on 18th Jan. By his wil, his remains wer cremated at Woking on 28th Jan. The electro-type cut givs his features in later years. For it we ar indebted to Mr Howard of the Phonographic Magazine, Cincinnati. Reed's biography givs fuller details of his career.

His old-leter alfabet was much like Ellis' Glosic after which it seems to hav been modeld. From 1843 he had almost daily corespondence with Ellis, the "1847 Alfabet" resultin. Ellis insistin on more than 12 vowel-symbols, Pitman unwilingly yielding to Ellis who supplid funds. From then til 1850 great expens was incurd in cutting punches, casting ful fonts of type, and equipment. The "Fonetik Nuz" was publisht weekly. When it faild, Pitman returnd to his 12-vowel-scale, that of his shorthand, the same as we employ. From it he did not depart again. In 1850 he publisht a fonetic edition of the Bible. Other books toled. Later, he made two important changes in his alfabet: 1st, difthongs ar speld out insted of having singl signs; 2nd, uzin Roman or continental values for vowels. In 1881 some change in symbols was made, leaving a 12-vowel and 24-consonant alfabet, unchanged since, in which the Niu Testament was printed in 1892.

We shal not soon hav his like. May his kindly, activ spirit animate us. Let his exampl spur us on to renewd activity and untiring zeal: then, we may say with Campbell, in "Hallowed Ground:"

"But strew his ashes to the wind
Whose sword or voice has served mankind—
And is he dead whose glorious mind
Lifts thine on high?—
To live in hearts we leave behind
Is not to die."

NEWS NOTES.

—An articl by Mr B. E. Smith, managing editor of the Century Dictionary, appears in the Forum for Nov. last, on the Future of Speling Reform. It shud be red and studid by all our readers. Besides blows delt existing speling, he argues that efforts of reformers shud be limited to getting improvement tantamount only to Amended Speling or therabout.

—Mr Geo. D. Broomell, Chicago, recently red a paper before the Anthropologic Society there on "Economic Aspects of Speling." Reformd speling secures economy in space, time, and expens of riting and publishing books by dropping silent leters. The child wud lern to read logically, in les time, and its drudgery wud be pleasure. Itis effort like Mr B's which bro't about genral acnoledgement by thinkers that speling needs mending. Keep the ball rolling.

—Prof. Hempl is making a study of American-English, British-English and Australian-English ar, thanks to Ellis for his long and indefatigabl labors, somewhat known, but Irish-English and American-English ar yet without careful study. Hempl's articl on the latter in the Chautauquan for Jan., 1896, is interesting. To get evidence on certn uzages, he is collecting from all over U. S. and Canada ansers to about 100 questions. Those interested shud aply to him at 95 E. University Av., Ann Arbor, Mich., for his question-circular, and send him their ansers.

CORRECTION.—The *Maitre Phonetique* (monthly, 3 francs a y'r, 11 route de Fontenai, Bourg-la-Reine, Seine, France) says:

"The HERALD says, 'the Maitre Phonetique is an actual polyglot, but in cololoquial speech only, not in its vocabulary, or standard, dictionary forms'—not quite corect. We print the forms of speech that contributors send: if any of them wil uze none but 'vocabulary' forms, we shal print them, as long as our alfabet alone is uzed."

NEW SPELLING

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We are not responsible for correspondents' views. Subjects of general interest only are inserted. For reply, enclose 3 cents postage, 5 cents to Europ.]

ALMOST PERFECTION.

SIR,—I consider your system perfection except *v* looks too much like *a*. Use it instead of *ô* for *awe* and *ô* or *ô* for 'long *o*.' *U* in *up* has more affinity with *a* than *u*, and *shud* has been represented by *v*. Use *k* solely for that sound, thus liberating *c* for *t* and *q* for *g*. I see no need of new letters, except perhaps *þ* and *ð* for *th* and *dh*. Why don't you use *þ*? All sounds in the language can be represented by present consonants and accented vowels which every printer has.

Selly Oak, Eng.

E. A. PHIPSON.

[The vowel in *nor* is related to *awe*. The former, *o*, uttered with increased tension, *o'*, folded by a second half with relaxation, *o''*, compose *ô*, combining both—important. *U* in *up* is derived mostly from *u* and *o*, of both of which it is suggestive. Even when from *o*, as in *come*, *o* was an *u*-sound says historic phonology. In Orthography this should be recognized, and *u* does the work better than anything else yet proposed. Murray and Amer. Dialect Soc'y use *v* in *up* from Sanskrit and Oriental analogies; Ellis used *ə* as we do, and *v* for *ə*. *ə* is better adapted to Occidental usage. So, we use *ə* in Orthoepy and Phonetics: *v* will be confined to Orthography. Orthoepy and Orthography are not convertible terms: considering them so is a great stumbling-block for over 50 years. Any set of signs may be used in the former as long as symbols are consistent with themselves: in Orthography respect must be paid to historic use of signs, else we precipitate wildest confusion. Historically *c* = *k*, *q* = Hebrew *koph*, or has been much used in transliterating it or similar guttural. Putting *c* = *t*, *q* = *g*, is misuse of old symbols. We use *þ* in Orthoepy. It is an open question whether or not it too should be restored;—a poor letter not half as much needed as *ð*, for which *dh* may be used as alternative if required.—EDITOR.]

ANOTHER VIEW.

SIR,—I do not agree as to proper lines of advance. I approve lines of Metre Phonetik—adopting a complete alphabet, leaving every one to pronounce, therefore to spell, as he pleases. There is no use of reform unless on some sound principle. The only true principle is the phonetic; but in a phonetic system there cannot be uniformity of spelling till there is uniformity of speech. There is nothing of the kind now even among educated people. You pronounce *fair* with a long vowel similar to *a* in *act*, to me unpleasant. You make no difference between *a* in *about* and *a* in *act*, to me widely different.

That in *about* is to me the same as in *up* except in stress. Compare *London*, *undone*, *fungus*, *succumb*. You use *e* in *learn* and *ell*, and *u* in *up* and *world*. In my pronunciation the vowels in *learn* and *world* have same sound, different from both that in *ell* and *up*. You use *iu* in *purity*, *iü* in *duty* [after Murray.] To me they are the same, and, not *i* but, *y*. [Yes, colloquially.] You analyze long *i* into *ai*, and diphthong *ou* into *au*. With me the first element of long *i* in *like*, *quite*, *ice*, and the first element in *south*, *house*, *couch*, is *u* [that is, *ə*] in *up*.

There may come in future a standard to which we both shall bow. Now there is not. The only way to reach one is to provide an instrument by which differences may be expressed, namely, a phonetic alphabet with distinct signs for all recognized simple sounds in use, leaving everyone free to pronounce and spell as he pleases, the same sound represented by the same sign in every case, whether simple or diphthongal. It confuses to have two signs for one sound, as *c* and *k*.

The vowels I think it necessary to distinguish, whether we like their employment in any particular word or not, are: English vowels in *eel*, *ill*, *ale*, *ell*, *err*, *a* in *ago*, *up*, *act*, *are*, *all*, *on*, *old*, *put*, *rule*; English consonants: *w*, *p*, *b*, *m*, *f*, *v*, *th* in *thin*. *th* in *then*, *t*, *d*, *n*, *l*, *red*, *err*, *s*, *z*, *show*, *measure*, *k*, *g*, *sing*, *h*, *ye*. If we wish to add enough signs for Scotch, German and French besides, we will require: vowels, *leur*, *eux*, *mann*, *homme*, *une*, *guir*; consonants, *w* in *zwei*, *ich*, *ach*, *g* in *tage*; and French nasals in *fin*, *un*, *on*, *en*. There may be added signs for length and accent, (:) for the former, and (') as in Palæotype for the latter.

In a word, efforts of reformers should be to perfect an alphabet and nothing else. With consensus of opinion on these, the rest would follow, and pronunciation may, as it must, be left to itself. Meantime, the uniformity in writing secured by the old spelling should not be sacrificed.

The steps necessary are: first, to determine sounds that must be represented; then, to decide which of these are to be represented by which old letters; last, what new signs are to be adopted.

Montreal.

ARCH. MCGOUN, JUN'R.

[We leave it to our readers with an explanation: Properly, we follow Webster's International as to *fair*, *care*, etc. Before a vowel, *i* becomes *y*, (and *u*, *w*) in colloquial as a rule, as in *celestial*, *Daniel*, *opinion*. This is true of French (as in *dernier*) and most other tongues in Roman characters. We conserve a good and a widely established rule. For *learn*, *up*, *world*, we say *lern*, *əp*, *wərd*, just as Mr M. does. We sink our own pronunciation and preferences (the personal equation) for 'lern, up, wurd,'—good eclectic Orthography. Theory (or Phonetics) and Practice (an Orthography for popular use) should not be confounded. In Theory, we shall use a larger alphabet than Mr M. would. But (in words of S. R. A. bulletin, published in *HERALD*, vol. 1, page 136) "No language has ever had, or is likely to have, a perfect alphabet: and in changing and amending the mode of writing a language already long written, regard must necessarily be had to what is practically possible quite as much as to what is inherently desirable." Dr Max Mueller on Spelling, published 21 years ago, went over all this with a master's hand. We respect and follow (so far as they agree) him and both Sp. Ref'm Aso's since. Wheatly, 30 years ago, (Trans. Phil'c Society, 1867) said: "The Phonetic party defeat their own object by demanding too much. Their treatment of English is so rough that they have found no general favor. It would be sufficient to change words in which correct pronunciation is manifestly different from spelling, but they would go farther than this and change every word." Our correspondent is a phonetician first; but not only, we hope. Phonetics, acoustics and filology contribute to orthography; just as sphere, trigonometry, calculus and astronomy contribute to navigation.—EDITOR.]

TRIAL CORNER.]

SOKRATES' PRGR.

Grant, o Olympian godz sūprim!
 Not mai wish, and not mai drim;
 Grant mi niðer gold ðat shainz,
 Nor rudi coper in ðe mainz,
 Nor pau'r tu wild ðe tairant's rod
 And bi a fūl, and sim a god,
 Nor presios rob wið jūeld frinj
 Splendid wið sr-born purpl tinj,
 Nor silken vest on ðauni pilo,
 Nor hamok hard on hiving bilo;
 But giv ol gudli thingz ðat bi
 Gud for ðe hpl and best for mi.
 Mai thôts ar fūlish, blaind and crūd;
 Ðau onli npest hwat iz gud.

—J. S. Blackie.

NOTES ON WORDS.

Sokrates.—The fashion of using k insted of c in Greek names is seting in, exampl being givn by some historians, as Grote, Freeman, Schmitz. The latter says (in *Preface to History of Greece*):—

"As Greek has no c, Greek k has been retaind; and ins:ed of Latin -us, I hav givn Greek -os. It wud, however, be mere pedantry rigorosly to aply the same rule to all proper names, for in case of some the Roman form, either in its entirety or in abridged shape, has almost become part of English itself."

Using c before a consonant or a, o, or u, makes no great difrence; but before e, i, or y, it leads to fals pronunciation: as in Thucydides, Phocis, Cynoscephalæ. Cilicia, Greek Κιλίκια, we hav herd calld ofn s^o.lif-ə- Anglicized pron. of Sokrates is sok'ra.tiz, while the Greek was so-kra'tes- Which shud prevail?

Prayer.—It is tho't beter to distinguish *prayer*, one who prays, from *prayr*, a petition. In acord with this, the former becomes "praer" in Orthografy; the latter, "prer"—a gain in distinctiv definitnes as wel as in brevity and indicating pronunciation: count 3 for Orthografy in comparison with old-fashiond Speling.

Grant.—This word is one of a large clas pronounced in two ways: 1st, grænt, with the vowel in *man*, of which ther ar two or three varietis; 2nd, grant, with a, but comonly les open than in *ah!* Worcester says it is "intermediat" between æ and a. For this reason it seems best to uze a for both in Orthografy. In Orthoepey, stil more in Pure Fonetics, unequivocal signs ar uzed. In Orthog., then, a is admittedly equivocal, just as *Murray* in this clas of cases uzes a symbol "avowedly ambiguos."

Oh! O, ah! eh? ay, au.—Establisht Speling appears right in indicating by h in *Oh!*

ah! eh? the post-aspirat herd after the vowel. It is not herd after O, the vocativ, uzed in adressing, as, O King. It shud be o, not uzing a capital, unnecessary in this as in *Oh!* *Aye*, meaning ever, is pronounc'd æ; while *ay*, meaning yes, is ai, to rime with *my*. So, we conclude that in a new Orthografy, these six words shud. be oh! o, ah! eh? æ, ai.

God, rod, not, what, copper.—These words ar most comonly pronounced god, rod, not, hwot, cop'r in this the region of the Great Lakes. In other districts, and here too, they ar givn with o in *nor*, and *God* as gôd. Prof. Max Müller, *On Spelling*, says:—

"Archbishop Trench wud be right in twiting fonetic reformers with sanctioning two spelings for the same word.

"I cud mention the names of three Bishops, one of whom pronounced the word God like Gawd, another like rod, a third lik gad. The las pronounciation wud probably be condemn'd by evrybody, but the other two wud remain, sanction'd by the highest authority, and therefore retain'd.

"So far, I admit that Archb. Trench has pointed out a real difculty inherent in fonetic riting."

The 3 pronunc'ns mentiond ar probably gôd, god, god, o being one sound of the a-group. A 4th, god, prevails in Scotland, where they call the church "ð^o.hūs^o Gôd" When the Pres insists on "Fixt Speling," and scolars like Trench twit us on sanctioning two forms, it is high time that we agree on *one* for each word.

Power.—This word is "pauer" in Orthografy, but the meter requires "pau'r."

KEY:— I—AMENDED SPELLING.
 Its extent is givn in this issue, first page.

II—ORTHOGRAPY.
 a æ e ai i o ô o u u ū
 as in at art ell ale ill eel nor gnawer no up put do
 a-sk err not lawu

Ðð, in *thy*, is restored Anglo-Saxon crost d.
 A fuler list of key-words is on p. 4, n^o 51.

III—ORTHOPEY.
 Primary (or "long") vowels: i, æ, a, ô, o, ū.
 Secondary (or "short") " i, e, æ, o, o, æ, u.
 Tertiary (or "obscure") " i, e, æ, a, o, o, u,
 calld weak, faint, rudimentary, theoretic.
 æ as in *man*; o is mid-bak a to low-bak-close a, as in *ox, not*; a, e, æ, i, i o, ô, o, u, ū, ð, as before; æ is mid-neutral, as in *upper, æp^{er}*; l, *hush*; j, *vision*; þ, *thigh*; y, *sing*.
 [-] denotes over-stres in preceding syllabl.
 [-] " medium-stres " "
 [-] " under-stres " "
 [-] " holding " sound.

IV—FONETICS.
 This wil be develop't later.

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