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The Herald.

DEVOTED TO PRONUNCIATION AND AMENDED SPELLING.

3^d YEAR.

TORONTO, CANADA, Oct., 1887.

N^o. 28.

DEFINISHNS.

Object: simplificashn ov Orthografy by, 1, omishn ov yusles letters; 2, reguleshn ov irregular letters; 3, adopshn ov nesesity nū letters.

Thez proseses, carid tu eny degre, prodys a cōresponding degre ov Amended Speling—completed, the prodys Fōnetic Speling. We ar tu distinguish, then, Amended Sp., which admits ov infinit degrez, frem Fōnetic Sp., which admits ov nun, being simply the last degre ov Amended Speling.

Refermd Speling, Simplifid Speling, Impruvd Speling [and Revizd Sp.] ar jeneral terms aplid tu ether Amended or Fōnetic Speling. When eny degre shert ov fōnetic speling is ment, the qualificashn PARTLY amended, PARTLY refermd, is understud, if not exprest.

The term 'speling reform' ma refer tu theory ov such reform, or tu the movment which sēks tu cary out the theory. In the larjest sens, it includs ol propozls and acts ov ol the organizashns or persns professedly sēking tu promot a reform ov sp.

In a restricted sens, it includs only such propozls and acts as hav gend apruvl and suport ov a serten number ov persns uther than ther orijineters and hav therby tendēd tu promot actual progres. This reznabl restricshn cuts of numberles fūtil propozls which apr in this, as in evry uther public ajitashn for reform, but which, not having gend a jeneral sancshn, cannot br considērd party doctrin or dāings.—Ovcors, ol party mezurs orijinet in individual propozls; but eny individual propozl, even when ov grēt merit, ofn fals tu obtan party sancshn, and cannot br led tu the party's account until so sancshnd.—Buletin 19.

—We ment tu se, p. 105, that Orthografy can at best giv but a mor or les clos aproximet tu Orthoepy. Our em shud br tu get as clos cōrespondens betwen them as is practicaly posibl. . . Hindu is cuming intu yus insted ov Hindoo, which is tu br met with encurejment as it yuzes u lik uther nashns. Yoo and hoo fer you and who ar retrograd; so ev uther wurd: abolish oo
KEY: a æ e i i o o u u u
az in art at a's ell cel it / or ox no up put do

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REVISED SPELING: 1. OMIT ovry useless letter.
2. CHANGE *d* to *t*, *ph* to *f*, *gh* to *f*, *if* sounded so.

SPELED OF DECIMAL NOTATION.

Our problem is Speech-Notation, or an improved mode of indicating Speech-Sounds. Another change sloly taking place is Time-Notation, or introduction of the 24-hour plan of dividing the day. Mr. Sandford Fleming, Ottawa, the well-known author and engineer of the Canada Pacific and Intercolonial Railways, is pushing Time-Notation in a way we hope to notice later. Chemistry has already adopted a new Notation. Beside Chemic-Notation, Speech-Notation and Time-Notation, we hav Decimal-Notation, which, coming from India, by way of the Arabians, is now, after three centuris of strugl, the establishd mode of reknig generally. Its extension to Weights and Mesures, as wel as to Money, dates but a century bak—from French Revolution. For some 60 years bak ther has been an occasional "calling attention" in Britan to the advantages of having a Decimal-Notation for Money, Weights and Mesures. It is now being pusht a litl more vigorously. In an articl by W. W. Hardwick in *Longman's Magazine* (Sept. '87) we read:

"Most of us no the difficultis with which money transactions ar carid on in this cuntry [G. Britan] not only among ourselves, in lesser transactions of daily life, but in greater and more formidable ones of international comerce. By adoption of decimal system, much labor now wasted in trubsum reductions might be done away with. Such a clumsy system is unworthy a great nation..... G. Britan, India, Egypt and Ottoman Empire ar the only cuntries that hav not adopted a decimal coinage. Tunis wil probably adopt the French system."

Since India and Egypt ar under British thum and Turkey haf so, it folos that John Bul has nobody to keep him company except "the unspeakabl Turk"! Say, John, yur stupid conservatism has got yu into disreputable company. It takes yu 100 years to wake up to anything. Hadn't yu beter play dog-in-the-manger no longer, but "keep up with the procesion,"—adopt a a simpl and sensibl plan for spelng, money, weights and mesures. Yu no yur spelng is "too uterly awful" for anybody. Yu 'v got behind the age. Yu shud not lag behind this way—like a cow's tail, always behind! Don't let Rip Van Winkl. Wake up! Decimal coinage has been adopted by France, Belgium, Switzerland, Græce, Italy, Roumanie, Spain, Servia, Bulgaria, Finland, Germany, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Holland, Java, Austro-Hungary, United States, Canada (which adopted U. S. curenicy in 1858) Newfoundland, Russia, Portugal, Peru, Venezuela, Chili, Columbia, Uruguay, Mexico, Japan, China (good for sleepy China), Brazil, Persia.

AMENDED SPELING IN FRANCE.

The "Congrès National des Instituteurs," or French Teachers' Assoc'n, met in Paris in Sept. In it, 40,000 teachers wer represented by 2,000 delegats. Three resolutions wer past, which, translated, ar:

1. We wud escape overwork in simplifying Orthograpy.
2. The Assoc'n expresses the wish that the French Academy and the Academie des Inscriptions et Belles Lettres wud arrange for a joint Comision charged with consideration and introduction of rational simplifications into Orthograpy.
3. In examination for certifficat in elementary studis, Dictation shud be no longer "a pluking subject" (*éliminatoire*.)

The first resolution shows that they look to simplification of Sp. as at least a partial relief to cram and crush of studis, so much complaind of by us as wel as them, by spelng being made so simpl as to need but a fraction of the time now spent in trying to master its labyrinth intricacis—and then comonly not succeeding. The second calls for an authoritativ examination and pronunciamento. The third desires that les importance be attacht to arbitrary and traditional forms of words. In British civil service examinations the great majority of those "plukt" (or rejected) ar so from failure in this conventional subject of spelng, no mater how wel grounded a candidate may be in essential subjects. Beyond all dout, too great stres is laid upon Sp. We shud push in same direction as they.

The French Society for Amendment of Sp. has been in labor and has bro't forth! It appointed a comision to examine the alfabet question some months ago. This has now reported. The report is conceivd from a national rather than an international stand-point. Wherein national predilections conflict with international ones is what we hav now to consider. Taking up their report, we find they recommend that the foloing signs be used as we do: b, d, f, g (always hard), h, l, m, n, p, r, s, t, v, y, z. Ther is neither k nor w in the French alfabet. For the sound k, q is used, and not c, the later being put to do duty for sh, to which they appear led by the sound sh being so comonly represented by ch. We ar quite aware that color for this can be found in other orthograis. Yet we cannot help regretting this as a perversion of the use of this old Latin letter. Y is used for the first sound in *yak*, is the same as in our word *yet*. J is given the value of s in vision; which is not to be wonderd at when we consider that the sound is comon in French and represented now mostly by j. This use of j conflicts with our use of it (Consonants as in English). L *monillé* is denoted by L, whose use is optional; while n is used as a contraction for ny as in Bunyan, equivalent to tilde-markt n in Spanish. Coming now to vowels, we shal comit notation of nas-

alized vowels as they do not occur in our speech. I and e are given Italian values, as in our words *machine* and *they*. The vowel corresponding to that in *father* is represented by A, while a is used for a sound between (as we suppose) that in *father* and that in *fat*, but nearer the later. The vowel in *mai re* is denoted by æ. Close o is represented by o, while open o has a turned c (o). For the first vowel in *méchant*, called mixt, an optional sign (E) is used. For the vowel in *peur*, œ is used. This is satisfactory to us. We take the sound to be practically the same as German ö, and probably the same as is said to be given in our words, *earn*, *mercy*, *bird*, etc., by many speakers. To French u, about the same as German ü, but not a cosmopolitan sound, is given good old letter u, thus taking a Roman letter to represent a sound not in Italian nor in general use—a bad affair. We are not surprised to see Dormer, of London, protesting against this in the *Teach r*, and stigmatizing this misuse of u as a parallel heresy to that of using the same sign for vowel in our word *us*, and which has been, or shud be, abandoned for some reason. For peculiar sounds, peculiar shapes shud be found. Let cosmopolitan shapes stand for world-wide sounds. For close u, (as in *nous*, or English *ooze*) u is chosen. If sound assigned u is changed, as it shud be, this will require reconsideration. However, u does harmonize with other letters, and may prove acceptable. Simple unvocalized breth, the so-called "obscure" vowel (which is no vowel tho, but simple breth) is well represented by turned e (e). (') is used as a sign of length, but whether for quantitativ distinction alone, or also to indicate qualitativ differences is not plain. With us, Knudsen uses the apostrophe (') for last mentioned purpose, altho he is quite willing to allow the turned period (·) to serve instead.

A TORONTO SOCIETY.—A Toronto Association for united action shud be formed. State associations are impracticable because distance prevents meeting. A printed serial must do state work, going to the individual and not expecting him to come a long journey to a meeting. Town and city associations are quite feasible, and shud be organized all over—especially in centers of activity and tho't, as Toronto may fairly be considered. Unfortunately we can devote no more time to it. It shud be done by some one. Who will move? An association meeting, say, monthly, except during July and August, wud be a center of effort and place for observation and comparison of notes so that a more combined effort cud be made. We hope some one will take trouble to call a meeting which cud be announced in these columns. Now is the time to organize for 1888.

LITERATURE.

SIMPLIFIED GRAMMAR OF JAPANESE, 107 pages, -- mo.

A ROMANIZED JAPANESE READER, 350 pages, 24 mo.

Both of these books were published in 1886 by Trübner & Co., London, and Kelly & Walsh, Yokohama. They were printed in Japan. Both are by B. H. Chamberlain who has taken a prominent part in putting Japanese into Roman dress. They afford us a sample of work done. Such a change of orthography is an entire revolution for the Japanese—a revolution accomplished so fast as to put our slo-coach methods to shame. If the orientals can go so fast, what is the matter with us?

In this application of the Roman alphabet to record a language not hitherto written therein it is of interest to note what values are given different letters. Hitherto, the grandest generalization we have been able to arrive at is:

1. VOWELS AS IN ITALIAN;
2. CONSONANTS AS IN ENGLISH;

so we are glad to find it stated in the *Grammar* that "Vowels are sounded as in Italian; but are always short unless marked with sign of long quantity, thus: do, 'a degree'; dō, 'a hall'; toru, 'to take'; tōru, 'to pass thru'." The only long vowels of common occurrence are o and u." Now, with all due deference to the scholarship displayed in Romanizing Japanese, we regret to see the mistake of using diacritical marks to distinguish these two vowels. It wud have been better to have employed the principle of differentiation, or making a sufficient change in the face of the letter. In other words, in the struggle of diacritics vs. differentiation, the latter shud prevail. Getting new shapes by differentiation is not a novelty. It has gone on in all ages from Cadmus until now. The Cadmean letters were few. They have grown chiefly by differentiation, seldom by diacritics. We believe the principle shud be followed of getting improved shapes by differentiation. In the present case, instead of distinguishing by o and ō, it shud have been by ō and o, ō becoming ø by dropping the breve into the letter. In like manner, distinguish u, as in *voze* by dropping the macron upon u. This avoids the disfigurement produced by diacritics. We hope the Romanization Society (Romaji-Kai) will improve their print by adopting the suggestion. Tōkyō will then become Tokyo; and Kyōtō, Kyoto; (the Tokio and Kioto of our maps).

Another mistake we are very sorry to see is even the sparing introduction of silent letters. They shud be utterly banished. Do not soil the virgin purity of the new language-dress by any such senseless stain, born of traditional derivation, for, as time goes

on, these stains wil multiply, as they hav in English, til they get pure orthografy into a filthy mudl.

As to consonants, L, Q, v and x ar not needed. It is notabl that Japanese laks L, as Chinese laks R. We ar told: "Consonants ar pronounst aproximatly as in English." F is a tru labial, not a labio-dental, as in English. G is always hard. N final is midway between tru N and nasalized N. Y is always a consonant. Before u, z has the sound dz almost. H before i is nearly like *ch* in German *ich*.

Japanese has about level stres, like French and Oriental languages generally, for we ar told: "Generally speaking, Japanese pronunciation, both of vowels and consonants, is les broad and hevty than that curent in most European languages, and especially English. . . . Students must beware of importing into Japanese strong and constantly recurring stres by whic . we in English singl out one syllabl in evry word [of more than one syllabl] and chief words in a sentence."

— The s in Bismark's name is pronounst s, not z.

GOOD FOR PENN!—Last sesion, the legislature of Pennsylvania past a resolution, introdust by J. W. Walk, M.D., Philadelphia, requiring apointment by State Governer of a State Comision to examin and report on question of speling and its amendment as related to public education. The Comision wil set to work shortly. Ontario shud do likewise.

WHAT IS VOLAPÜK?—It is a scientific international language, not to supersede any living language but to be lerned next to mother-tung by evry educated person. Formd on general model of Aryan family of languages, selecting from each the tru and beutiful, discarding irregularitis, oditis and difficultis. Material taken largely from English. Far easier to lern than any existing language. Perfectly regular and transparent. Invented by Rev. Father J. M. Schleyer, Constance, Baden, Germany, who publishes its organ, *Volapükablad*, 65c's a y'r. In English ther is no dictionary yet, and only text-book at all satisfactory is *Abridged Gramar of Volapük* by Prof. Kerckhoffs, adapted to use of English-speaking peopl by Karl Dornbush, publisht by H. Le Sou-dier, 174 Boulevard St. Germain, Paris, France. Price, 1 franc 25. It may be had for 35 cents from C. E. Sprague, 54 W. 32d St., N. Y., who is preparing a Handbook for those who understand English only and which wil be redy this fall, price about \$1. An articl by R. Walker in *American Magazine* for June, entitled "The Universal Language," givs farther explanation of Voia-pük.

— A correspondent of the N. Y. *Mail* says that the cuntry-seat of Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone, Hawarden, is pronounst Hårdn (or Ho'dn if R be dropt.) Why don't they leav out the silent, useles and misleading leters then? and hav it simpl, short and sensibl.

— A uniform orthografy with notation of accent wud lighnt by haf the labor of lerning English.—*Prof. Hadley*.

CORRESPONDENCE.

ETYMOLOGY--W, Y--NEW SHAPES.

STR.—We shud hear the last of the Etymologic objection if all wud read and consider the litl dialog yu gave 3 months ago [in which Jim, radical litl scamp, and cunning litl rebl, "argues the case" with his teacher.]

A. B. Pikard is right about w and y. In Welsh, which has the most nearly fonetic orthografy of any language in Europ, w is used before either a vowel or a consonant, and i is used where in Eng. we find y. Even in English i is ofn used for y. In last syllabls of *pin-ion*, *pon-iard*, *William*, the i is identical with y in *yon*, *yard* and *yam*. So much for theory. In practice, however, no scheme has proposed to spel yet as *iet*. [Pikard's scheme does. York he puts Ierk. Put and would he spels pwt and wwd.] Evry scheme finds it necessary to make some concessions to appearance.

To A. J. Pierce I wud say: E. Jones does not "fight" new shapes. As an abstract question, and one of principl, I hav always advocated new leters as the ultimatt aim of Amended Speling. Some strenuous advlcats of new shapes as a "pius opinion" wil not move a litl finger [or furnish 10 cents] to giv practical efect to their views. At present, in riting to papers supposed to be in sympathy, it is ofn advantageous to sho how far we can go with present leters, where it wud be imposibl to introduce new shapes. Liverpool, Eng. E. JONES.

BENGOF & DOUGLAS.

STR.—As Messrs. Bengough and Douglass advocate Amendment of Speling, with omission of useles leters especially, why do they not set us exampl by leaving useles leters from their own names. Tru, the rule is to leav proper names untucht. Yet, if they "mean busines," they wil "begin at home," like charity. Otherwise, it is a case of "Don't do as I do, do as I tel yu"!!—advic not likely to be taken since precept is not haf as good as exampl. If they wud do so, we cud then adopt the shordnd forms. Yur two admirabl. rules for Revised Sp. applied to their names giv Bengof and Douglas. Toronto.

CUT IT SHORT.