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The Herald.

DEVOTED TO PRONUNCIATION AND AMENDED SPELLING.

VOL. II, 9.

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NR 59.

CAXTON'S PERPLEXITY, OR, SPELLING 400 YEARS AGO.

Caxton, after printing for thirteen years, 1477 to 1490, publisht an English translation he made from another (French) translation of Vergil's *Æneid*. It concluded:—

"Here fynysheth the boke of *Encydos*, compyled by *Vyrgyle*, whiche hathe be translated out of *latyne* in to *frenshe*, and out of *frenshe* reduced into *Englyshe* by me *Wilm. Caxton*, the xxij daye of *Iuyn*, the yere of our lorde. M. iijC lxxx. The fythe yere of the Regne of kyng *Henry* the seuenth."

In its preface he givs some account of his perplexity in choosing word-forms—perplexity ever presnt til they ar fixt. Tho our language is world-wide, not insular as then, like perplexities abound. This trubl arose immediatly on the introduction of printing. Printers hav fixt speling, it is tru, but in most irregular and irrational fasion. Thru these perplexities Caxton took a midl course. He tels us:—

"I delybered and concluded to translate it into englyshe. And forthwyth toke a penne and wrote a leef or tweyne, whych I ouerfawe agayne to correcte it, And whan I sawe the fayr & straunge termes therein, I doubted that it sholde not please some gentylnen which late blamed me sayng that in my translacons I had ouer curyous termes which could not be vnderstande of comyn peple, and desired me to vse olde and homely termes in my translacons. and fayn wolde I satysfye every man, and so to doo toke an olde boke and rede therein, and certaynly the eng yshe was so rude and brood that I coude not wele vnderstande it. And also my lorde *Abbot of Westmynster* ded do shewe to me late certayn euidences wryton in olde englyshe for to reduce it in to our englyshe now vsid, And certaynly it was wryton in suche wyse that it was more lyke to dutche than englyshe I coude not reduce ne bryng it to be vnderstooden, And certaynly our langage now vsed varyeth ferre from that whiche was vsed spoken whan I was borne. For we englyshe men, ben borne vnder the domynacyon of the mone, which is neuer stedfaste, but euer wauerynge, wexynge one season, and waneth and dyscreaseth another season, And that comyn englyshe that is spoken in one shyre varyeth from another. In so much that in my dayes happened that certayn marchants were in a ship in Tamyse for to haue sayled ouer the see into Zeland, and for lacke of wynde thei taryed atte forlond, and wente to lande for to refreshe them. And one of theym named *Sheffelde* a mercer cam in to an hows and axed for mete, and specially he axyd after eggys And the goode wyf answered, that she coude speke no frenshe. And the merchant was angry, for he also coude

speke no frenshe, but wolde haue eggys, and she vnderstode hym not, And thenne at laste another sayd that he wolde haue eyren, then the good wyf sayd that she vnderstode hym wel, Loo what sholde a man in thyse dayes now wryte, eggys or eyren, certaynly it is harde to playse every man, by cause of dyuersite & change of langage. For in these dayes every mon that is in ony reputacyon in his contre, wyll vtter his comynycacyon and maters in suche maners & termes, that fewe men shall vnderstande theym, And som honest and grete clerkes haue ben wyth me and desired me to wryte the most curyous termes that I coude fynde, And thus bytwene playn rude, & curyous I stande abashed but in my Iudgment, the comyn termes that be dayli vsed ben lyghter to be vnderstande than the olde and ancyeat englyshe, And for as moche as this present booke is not for a rude vplondyshe man to labour therein, ne red it, but only for a clerke & a noble gentylman that feleth and vnderstandeth in faytes of armes in loue & in noble chyualrye, Therefore in a mean betwene bothe I haue reduced & translated this sayd booke in to our englyshe not ouer rude ne curyous but in such termes as shall be vnderstanden by goddys grace accordynge to my copve. And yf ony man wyll enter mete in redyng of hit and fyndeth such termes that he can not vnderstande late hym goo rede and lerne *Vyrgyll*, or the pystles of *Ovyde*, and then he shall see and vnderstande lyghtly all, Yf he haue a good redar & enformer, For this booke is not for every rude and vnconnyng man to see, but to clerkys & very gentylemen that vnderstande gentyles and scyence. Thenne I praye alle theym that shall rede in this lytyle treatys to holde me for excused for the translatyng of hit. For I knowleche myselfe ignorant of comynge to enpryse on me so lie and noble a worke, But I praye Mayster *John Skelton* late created poete laureate in the vnyuersitye of *Oxford* to ouersee and correcte this sayd booke. And t'adrebbe and expowne where as shall be founde faulte to theym that shall require it. For hym i knowe for sufficyent to expowne and englyshe every dyffyeulte that is therein, For he hath late translated the epystlys of *Tulle* and the boke of *Dyodorus Siculus*, and diuerse others werkes out of latyn in to englyshe not in rude and olde langage, but in *polysshed and ornate termes* craftely, as he that hathe redde *Vyrgyle*, *Ovyde*, *Tullye*, and all the other noble poetes and oratours, to me unknown: And also he hath redde the ix muses and vnderstande theyr musicalle scyences, and to whom of theym eche scyence is appropred. I suppose he hath drunken of *Elycons* well. Then I praye hym & suche other to correcte adde or mynyshe where as he or they shall fynde faulte, For I haue but folowed my copve in frenshe as nygh as me is possible, And yf ony worde be said therein well, I am glad, and yf otherwyse I submytte my sayd boke to theyr correctyon."—Sutcliffe's *Cratylus*.

His quaint statement shows that Caxton, first, was perplexed by varying orthoepy; second, took a midl cours; third, so't and accepted counsel and guidance from the scholarship of his time.

SPELING 200 YEARS AGO.

Montaigne's quaint wisdom was not lessend by his indiffrence to spelng. In one of his essays he says: "I neither concern myself with orthograpy nor pointing, being very unexpert both in the one and the other." A similar freedom pervaded the translator of the 1700 edition of his essays: several words ar accorded dubl representation, many possess more fonetic form than now, others hav had to bow to mutativ forces ever at work in the dres of words.

That "sharp" preterits ar renderd in poetry by final t is not at all strange or unwelcome (see Tennyson and Landor); but to find them so in plain prose is unuzual. Montaigne's translator and the publishers of current issues of this edition make them "body forth" in this atire. Here ar a few:

stopt, fixtly, rapt, opprest, askt, tost, vext, perplext, dispatcht, mixt, lookt.

"Flat" preterits ar givn so: govern'd, beg'd.

Some foneticians contend that words ending in en and er ar not separat sylbls, and this finds countenance here, as in fahn, hardning, engendring, befalln. happed, stoln, entring, evertowring

Obnoxios ough is cashierd from tho, altho.

In many words where we omit u, as in "emperour", it is retaind in most cases; yet in a few others it is dropt, as in color, succor, humor, honor.

As this was 200 years ago, the charge that omitting u is American innovation fails.

Final e either by intention or accident is omitted in some forms, thus:—

imagin, tooth-ach, troublesom, irksom, judg, judg's, hodg-podg, machin.

Contrarywise, where we hav dropt final e, it is retaind in

ruine, sollicite, oxe, undergoe, agoe, vermine.

Where we hav final e, in a few forms vowel-length is indicated by a digraf, as: meer, theam, shoar, stroak, spehar, compleat.

Those oposed to orthografic change perhaps wil recognize "the hand of time" in

attaque, atacqués, targuet, lacquey's, masques, musquet, coits, phrensie, and how metamorfosic forces play havoc in woolf, woolves, shool, sawses, cloaths, pidgeon, chirurgeons, chusing, suddain, alledge.

Certn words which we render with dubl consonants wer then content with one:—

dazle, setled, scribled, tramel, buz, expresly, foretel, befall, juglers, embezled.

On the other hand we find:—

drugg, christmass, barr, farewell, byass, wooll.

Why such forms as the foloing hav been alterd, is dificult to say:—

fansying, perswasion, disbursments, forein, plum, soverain, priks, acquies, stedfastly.

The "hand of the destroyer" has eliminated k in such words as "public", and, as if by way of compensation, has substituted it for que in "musquet". The orthografic mil grinds slowly, but surely. Let us hope that by the advent of the new century many more silent and useles letters wil hav been ground out of existence.

Hetton-le-Hole, Eng.

H. DRUMMOND.

CORRESPONDENCE.

LINDSLEY'S WORK.

SIR: Ever since receiving yur HERALD of July, 1897, containing likenes and obituary of D. P. Lindsley. I hav desired to rite and thank yu for that notice of one whom I new wel and who labord earnestly and judiciously for spelng reform. Other men enterd into his labors; for he was a pioneer in straitening crooked places without a strictly fonetic alfabet. His plans for gradual revision ar now endorst by Lerneal filologists and the Century and Standard Dictionaries, who however never mention the name of Lindsley.

Walters Park, Pa. ELIZA B. BURZ.

[His co-laborer wud be doing good work in puting on record somewhere fuller account of what he did and advocated. Our account, necessarily condense, was a synopsis of information got with difficulty from several sources.—EDITOR.]

-SION—STANDARD SPEECH—AGENT-NOUNS—DUBL CONSONANTS.

SIR: I note yur -sion (s'ion, s'ion) insted of -shun, as "atension" for "atenshun". I wish authorities had it sh'ion or sh'yon, as that comes nearer my pronunciation—not sh'ion, but sh'ion with o haf way between o (not ø) and u.

Le Maître Phonétique for May last, in anser to yur articl, "Dialectles Speech", in April HERALD, quoting last paragraf, has:

"Tel yu what is receivd French, English, etc.? That is what we cannot do, for a simpl reason: We do not no what it is; and dout very much whether such a thing exists apart from a very vazue compromise between varios individual and local varieties of speech."

Wel, that 's too bad! Let its editer get either a *Standard*, a *Century*, or, if mater of price, a *Webster's International Dictionary*, and study a litl bit. He might hav to choose between two variant forms ocasion-aly; but anything is beter than the English printed in his colums. Then he wud not say ən for *and*, ə for *are*, əz for *has*, ə for *a*, ðət for *that*, or ekslənt for *excellent*. Besides slouchines in its English, ther is, to me at least, lots of horror in its German. I can say, like Mr Kidder of English, If German "is spoken so anywhere on the face of the erth, may God hav mercy on the place and send a scoolmaster!" So, even in French and other languages, I fear to take my pronunciation from *Le Maître Phonétique*. It might not be what intelectual peopl consider best.

I like yur rule for agent-nouns, or use of -er as in *editer*, and hope that it it wil become universal.

I wud divide "spel-ing" so. Mr Holt surely wud not divide fee-ling, dea-ling, loa-ling, flu-ting, etc. To divide repres-ented leads to rong pronunciation; besides it takes s from the third sylabl where it belongs, and ads it to the second.

Saint Louis, Mo.

N. J. WERNER.

[In the books publishd by Holt & Co. ar frequent violations of the rule givn by Mr Holt. To exemplify, see "author-ity", page 198 of "The Federalist" (edited by Ford, 1898). In "repres-ented", orthoepy and this arbitrary rule giv the same result, rep-re.zent'ed. But orthoepy dominates. The third sylabl has high stres: and this attracts s to it.—EDITOR.]

MORE ABOUT DUBLING CONSONANTS.

SIR: Let us not uze two where one is sufficient. Tho claimd that we hav in it a

means to indicate stres, it is a clumsy way, involving greater los than gain. Let us contrive a simpler way for that, if needed in some cases, one to be uzed in any case, which doubling can not. Ne change in leters wil sho the difrence between "conflict" as noun and as verb. Doubling l in "spelling" is but one of many clumsy expedients for piecing out a defectiv alfabet.

Again, if we ordinarily doubl a consonant between sylbls, how shal we indicate the dwelling on a consonant sometimes necessary in corect speech? If two ns in *bonnet*, how many in *unnecessary*? Except where the sound is purposely prolonged, I see no more call for doubling a consonant between two vowels that each may hav its own, than for placing two doors in the opening between adjoining rooms that the contour of each room may be complete without reference to the other.

Chicago, Ill.

GEO. D. BROOMELL.

NEWS-NOTES AND COMENTS.

—*Le Signal* is the mouth-piece of the Swis Speling Reform Association. It givs a large part of its space to stenograpy. L. Mogeon edits it (monthly, 2½ francs a year) at Charmilles, Boulevard de Grancy, Lausanne. The Asociation has over 500 members, and sends to newspapers a circular insisting on the necessity of some remedy for inconsistencies in French speling.

—Mrs Burnz' *Step-by-Step Primer* is in use to teach English in the Uivarsity of Nankin, China. It is in her Pronouncing Print, so as to giv orthoepy of words by marks and small leters under, as small v under f in "of". The Sermon on the Mount is publisht in the same print.

—Mrs Burnz has been an invalid since March, 1896. Dizines caused a fall, breaking the left hip; result, use of crutches, with dizines still troublesome, otherwise fairly well. For nineteen months she has been at a sanitarium at Walters Park, Pa. Rev. Dr H. L. Wayland is there too much broken in helth. He has sold his paper, The National Baptist, Philadelphia, in which for years he did good service for reform.

—The Department of Superintendence of the National Educational Association, at its Indianapolis meeting, Feb. 17, 1898, appointed a committee consisting of Dr Wm T. Harris, U. S. Comisioner of Education, Washington; Dr F. L. Soldan, sup't of schools, Saint Louis, Mo.; and T. M. Balliet, sup't of schools, Springfield, Mass., to recommend a list of words with simplified speling for use in publisht proceedings of the Department. The committee's report was duly made and spelings so authorized uzed in the publisht proceedings of the meeting of the Department in Chattanooga, Tenn., Feb. 22-24, 1898. At a meeting of the Board of Directors of the N. E. A. held in Washington, July 7, 1898, the action of the Department of Superintendence was approved and the list of words with simplified speling adopted for use in all publications of the N. E. A. as folos:

altho	demagog	prolog	thorofare
catalog	pedagog	tho	thru
decalog	program	thoro	thruout

—*Le Reformiste* (semimonthly, 18 rue du Mail, Paris, France) now publishes this appendix to its numeros rules for amending speling in Franch:—"Our simplifications conform to the foloing rules: 1. Omit evry leter contributing neither to producing sound nor to forming derivativs of the word in which it is uzed, unless it servs to distinguish the names of beings and things, or to determinu gender or number. 2. Replace by leters realy etymologic those erroneosly considerd so." A corespondent urges that "Prin-

cipl must be aplied universal. I grant unreservedly that one shud not overthro evrything, but it is necessary that a sole principl shud govern in receivd changes. Thus, in all words ending with tion, tis to be replaced by s, not by c as in Spanish. We shal say prononsiasion, situasion, acseptasion."—a conclusion reacht by THE HERALD. To this, editer Bares ads:—"In my work on Speling Simplified, to appear shortly, I hav thrown out the duplication of all consonants, and laid down this rule for c:—C wil hav always the sound k, as in cuir, if it has no cedilla subscript, or if it does not precede i or e, as in citoyen, cerize, etc."

—Co-laborers ar askt to contribute news and send markt items to this department.

WORD-REGISTER.

[A dash (—) means, same as the preceding.]
(. means, infer from the preceding.)

SPELING AMENDED (OR REVIZED)	PROPOSED ORTHOGRAFY ("SYNDROM")	COSMOPOLITAN ORTHOEPY (VARIORUM)
amenabl	aminabl*
blakgard	—	blæg'ard-†
cereal, serial	surial	si'ri.al.
coma	cōma
comma	coma
dynasty	dinasti	din'a.sti-
not	—	not
nothing	nuthing	nə'ɪŋ- nə'ɪŋ-
orthograpy	orthografi‡
pedl	—	ped'l:
pedler	—	ped'ler.
paltry	poitri
poultri	pōltri
poltroon	poltrūn
preface	prefes	pref'es. -as.
registrar	registrer	redj'is.trær.
repute	repiūt	rɪ.piūt.
reputation	repyutasion	rep-yu.taf'æn.
son, sun	sun
soon	sūn	—
ther (expletiv)	ðer	— (coloq'l, ðær)
they	ðæ	—
their	ðær	— ðær§
wharf	worf	— morf, warf

*Don't slur i, a, o, ū. This shud be put as fundamental in Orthograpy. It wil sho that these primary vowels never hav weak stres. So, when we see i with such surroundings, we no that it is high strest. This high stres attracts neighboring consonants. The pronunciation then is a.mn'ab.l: Orthograpy difers from orthoepy in not explicitly indicating either sylabication or stres. The merit of any system of orthograpy lies greatly in the redines with which orthoepy may be inferd.

†*Black* and *guard* ar givn as the composition of this word. Receivd orthoepy allows k to coales with its immediat successor and voiced mate, g. Stres attracts g into the first sylabl. Yet it appears beter to "aim at" sounding k according to plank 9 in our Platform, leaving the play of uterauce at work. Hence, Orthograpy keeps k.

‡Tho derived from *orthos* and *grapho*, g is drawn by stres into the second sylabl: or.thog'ra.fi. This is the rule in like cases, as te.leg'ra.fi., fo.nog'ra.fi., etc. Agent-nouns do the same, as in te.leg'ra.fer.; but prinal nouns not, as tel'e.graf.

§Anglo-saxon had "ðær". This survives with great frequency in America.

[TRIAL CORNER: "Try all, adopt the good."—PAUL]

BILD ON PRINSIPLZ.

[In these pages for July last Mr George D. Broomell, Chicago, Illinois, urged THE HERALD, if not altogether reflecting the notation and underlying theoretic views as to alphabets practised in "A Standard Dictionary", at any rate not "to antagonize" them. His suggestions aim at concord in effect, even tho the Scientific Alphabet be not accepted as a finality in all its parts, or its application as made in the Dictionary be wholly approved. We see the wisdom of this, and now begin a course not antagonizing the Dictionary. This specimen exemplifies concord so far. Its matter is worthy of serious attention, too.]

No condition iz mōr nesereri for ðe success ov a projected sistem ov orthografi ðan ðat it shud bī az much az posibl a nesereri deducsiōn from fikst prinsiplz, and az litl az posibl mater ov arbitrerri invensiōn. Nau, ði arbitrerri elements òv a reformd orthografishud bī az fiu az posibl: sins, az long az ða ar arbitrerri, ða wil vari wið ðe pekiūliar viūz ov ði inovater—and az wun inovater wil rarli giv up hiz òn detalz for ðōz ov anuðer, ðer iz no mīnz ov sekiuring yūniformiti eksept bai laing daun preliminarri comon prinsiplz, and admīting sum comon prinsipl ov rīzoning on ðem.—*R.G. Latham, M. D.*

THE O-PROBLEM.

"Sumarize and Harmonize."

In most languages ar two (beter, two families of) o-sounds; one, close o, as in *no*; the other, open o, as in *nor, not*. In open o the mouth is open wider than for close o, hence their names. In America *not* is comonly pronounced *not*, where o is of the a-family and so is more open stil than o in *nor*; elsewhere *not* and *nor* hav vowels about identical. However desirabl, even necessary, to distinguish between o and o in Orthoepy, in Orthografy such a course accentuates difrences and causes confusion, disagreement and anything except harmony. In Orthografy let *not* and *nor* hav the same vowel-sign. The question is how, in Orthografy, shal we distinguish close o from open o. First perhaps in importance, tho too long neglected, is

Frikke's Solution.—The third of five principal planks in his platform, publisht under title "What We Want" (*Was Wir Wollen*), translated, is

"No dubling of consonants in the same syllabl; omisiōn of all sigrs for vowel-length, except in closed syllabs the makron—hardly needed in riting."—HERALD, vol. i, page 167.

A closed, shut or stopt syllabl is one thing; a close vowel quite another: the former is a syllabl that closes or ends with a consonant, and so is closed completely or comparatively—completely if the consonant is

a stop, comparatively if not quite so, comparison being with a vowel ending. All vowels, even close ones, being more open than any consonant, a syllabl ending with a vowel is calld an "open" syllabl in contradistiōn to a "closed" one. *Stove, roud, voter*, hav o in closed syllabl; *potato, no, fellowship* (fel·ō·fip-), hav o in open syllabl. Frikke's rule is very applicabl to German. Hitherto, we hav suposed it far les so to our tung. Recent reconsideration leads to belief that it may be aplīed for o- and u-vowels. In other words, close o and close u ar to be denoted by ō and ū respectively in strest, stopt syllabl; but it is unnecessary to mark either in a syllabl manifestly open: then it is one of our "linguistic habits" to pronounce o and u with close sound anyway. When neither markt nor in syllabl manifestly open, open o as in *nor* or *not* is implied in one case, open u as in *put* in the other. It is remarkabl that the question of dubling consonants and this rule for distinguishing close from open vowels shud occur in the same plank—they ar inwoven,—as also that THE HERALD shud hav reacht both questions now.

Knudsen's Solution.—This in effect was much the same as Frikke's except that a raised comma (') was uzed by Knudsen insted of the makron. This was put after the vowel, not over it, and was deemd unnecessary at end of words only, but occurd in mid-word immediatly after the vowel, even in stopt syllabs. We hav twice exemplified Knudsen's spelling (vol. i, pages 115, 134). Frikke aplīed the same treatment to a, e, i, o, u, vowels; Knudsen, to the a, i, o, u, ones alone, employing differentiated e (æ) for close e, as we uze æ—differentiated e, or ê with circumflex made final without lifting pen from paper.

March's Solution.—Uze o for close o; let ð hav the brev dropt into it, giving ø, for open o. Both o and ø may hav a makron above for further discrimination if requisit. Larison folos March, but puts œ in *nor*.

Pitman's Solution.—Uze o in *not* and *nor*, œ in *naught*, and for close o in *no, note*, strike a wavy makron thru the top of o, like the tilde-mark over ñ. Such mark is but a variety of makron.

In the above we partly "sumarize", and partly explain. We aim to pursue a course not in conflict with these leaders, but one that "harmonizes" with what they hav promulgated.

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