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# The Fonetic Herald

DEVOTED TO ORTHOEPY AND ORTHOGRAPHY.

1<sup>ST</sup> YER. PORT HOPE, CANADA, FEB., 1885. NO. 2.

## RESTORATION OV 'U'

The proposal tu hav the capital ov 'u' a simpl enlarjment ov it, insted ov 'U' az now, iz not an inovation but a restoration. Such a shape az a capital was in use in printing for centuries. We hav had the privilej ov inspecting a copy ov Homer's *Odyssey*, printed at Cambridge in 1680, in which each page ov the Greek alternates with its Latin translation. All the capital 'u'z ar simpl enlarjments ov the small ones - at eni rate in an hour's careful inspection ov it we hav faild tu find eni other. The Latin name ov the hero iz ov frequent ocurens, and iz invariably printed thus: 'Ulysses', never 'Ulysses'.—Other books, printed before and 'after, employ both forms. Thus, in the first edition ov Pope's translation ov Homer's *Iliad*, publisht 1715, we find the shape 'U' ov frequent ocurens. In *italic*, however, the shape 'U' iz always found. When the corner stone ov King's (now Columbia) Colej, N. Y., was laid in 1756, it was in use: for we read the name 'CAROLUS HARDY' upon it. The stone iz stil tu be seen. A *fac-simile* ov the inscription iz tu be found in the Oct. 1884 no. ov *Harper's Monthly*, page 719.

It thens appears that the shape was uzed in the lătr haf ov the last century. In other words, our grandfathers saw it regularly. We find it eceptionally in 1834, az in the Royal Insurans cal-

endar. Now, tu hav two shapes for the same capital letr encumberd the printer's case and one was dropt. Ov the two, U, the simpler, was prezervd az the *printed* capital form while 'u' was retaind az the small letr.

It shud be mentiod that tu our day *written form* iz a simpl enlarjment ov *u*. Thoz who hav oportunity shud make it matr for obzervation how far such form iz general or prevalent. Uxbridge, University Colej, and elshwar giv good fields for obzervation.

With the written form now regularly in use, and the printed form in use recently, the propozd shape shud not be hard ov introduction. It givz simplisity and yuniformity insted ov diversity.

With such change, we hav U left az the capital ov u, uzed az the sign for the vowel sound in *nut*. We then hav the simpl, yuniform, and consistent Uu, *nut*; uu, *put*. This amounts tu the introduction ov a new letr without introducing eni shape but what iz alredy familiar.

## TU C' RESPONDENTS.

(Matrzov *general* interest or ansrd here)

S. C., Toronto.—Praer iz the *person* who prays: praer, or prar, iz the *petition* or form ov words spoken. See Wustr (Worcester.)

W. M., Perrytown.—*Their* iz pronounst thar, az *they* iz tha; *there*, adverb, meaning in that place, iz thar; while *there*, introductory expletiv, iz ther, or thur. Wustr givz the foloing exampl: 'Chastisement iz not in hev'n, becauz thar ther iz no sin; nor in hel, becauz thar ther iz no amendment.'

(From Toronto Globe, 30 Aug. '84.)

## GOOD ENGLISH SPELLING

(To the Editor of the Globe.)

SIR, In the course of his recent address to the Provincial Teachers' Association on 'Some Educational Follies,' Rev. Principal Grant denounst with his usual vigor the practice of 'cramming' in schools. A few minutes afterward, while outlining what in his opinion wud be a good public school program, he insisted on the necessity of making the pupils 'good spellers.' Dr. Grant was right in his denunciation of 'cramming,' but, in order to free himself from a charge of inconsistency, he will hav to give a somewhat unusual definition of 'good spelling.' Whatever he may have meant by the expression when he used it, it was certainly understood by all his hearers to mean that in our schools every pupil shud be taught not merely to spell words correctly in the conventional way, but to regard the ability to do so as one of the most important of educational accomplishments. If this is his view, then I beg leave to say that in my opinion he is trying to perpetuate in our schools the most injurious and least defensible kind of cramming that has ever obtained a footing in our educational system; that he is not only hugging his own fetters but is seeking to rivet them on every English-speaking individual of his own and subsequent generations; that he is trying to render permanent on the shoulders of the children a burden which the fathers have been unable to bear, and that he is not merely proclaiming himself a fetch worshiper but is seeking to compel every one else to bow down in the same superstitious frame of mind before the contemptible idol he adores.

I shal be glad to learn that the learned Principal of Queen's University did not mean all this when he insists on making all pupils 'good spellers.' I shal be still more glad to hear that by 'good' spelling he means rational spelling, and he noz—as every educated man noz—that our conventional spelling is extremely irrational and capricious. He noz that much time and money are wasted in the effort to make school pupils expert spellers with very little to show for it in the practice of their after lives. He noz that so-called bad spelling, which is

really better than the so-called good spelling, is the more prevalent of the two in spite of the herculean and wasteful drudgery it entails on both teachers and pupils. He noz that many otherwise accomplished candidates for teachers' certificates are plunkt because their orthography is a little eccentric. He noz that hundreds of candidates are rejected every year at the Departmental and University examinations on account of misspelled words in their ritn papers. He noz that there is not a single English filological scholar of any standing, in either England or America, who is not an earnest advocate of spelling reform. He noz that the process of reforming the spelling of the German language is now in full blast under both scholarly and official auspices. Noing all these and many other facts to which I might call his attention, is Dr. Grant prepared to make a decided stand in favor of retaining our present capricious system.

If he is not, then why in the name of common sense does he insist on so much stress being laid upon 'good spelling'—it is perfectly obvious that so long as superstitious reverence for our present orthography dominates the mind of the majority, any departure from it must be generally regarded as a mark of illiteracy. And yet nothing can be more unjust or absurd. I can spell as well as most people; but if I choose to spell 'though' without the 'ugh' as good English writers did half a century ago, and as good English writers do to-day, I wud endanger my reputation as an educated man. The same is true of such words as 'program,' 'catalog,' 'rime,' 'traveler' and a host of others, many of which forms wud be condemned by nomenclature-minded University and Departmental Examiners. I chalenj Dr. Grant or any other person to give a single good reason for regarding a man's mode of spelling English words as a proper criterion of his literary or professional attainments. I hav seen reasons given, but never one that wud stand a moment's investigation.

I appeal to heads of colleges, like Dr. Grant and Dr. Wilson, such whose standing as scholars is unquestioned in the community, not merely to refrain from seeking to perpetuate the tyranny of ignorance, to which I refer, but to

...acue of the teacher, and  
 the pupils in our schools.  
 I appeal to them to come out and take  
 their stand in the spelling reform move-  
 ment alongside of such distinguished  
 English scholars as Prof. March, Prof.  
 Whitney, and Prof. Lounsbury in Am-  
 erica, and Prof. Joyce, Dr. Murray,  
 Prof. Sweet, Prof. Skeat, Dr. Angus Dr.  
 Morris and Mr. Alex. J. Ellis in Eng-  
 land. They will find themselves in most  
 excellent company if they do; they will  
 soon find themselves in most undesirable  
 company if they do not. The time is  
 rapidly approaching when every man  
 who avows himself an opponent of a  
 rational reform of our English spelling  
 will be regarded as either a fossil crank  
 or a self-confessed ignoramus.

WM. HOUSTON.

Toronto, 22 Aug. '84.

[Dr. Grant, thus taken to task, did  
 not, so far as we no, make any attempt  
 to either explain or justify his position.  
 He and all other scholars no ful wel that  
 the present orthography is, in the words  
 of one of them, "utterly indefensible."  
 No scholar of standing has done so for  
 over a quarter of a century, while those  
 who admit and deplore its myriad de-  
 fects are legion.—EDITOR.]

OPINIONS.

Mr. J. G. Gholson, attorney, writes  
 from Broughton, Ill.: 'I am satisfied  
 that a large majority of reformers are  
 united or may be united on the fol-  
 lowing propositions:

1. The general adoption of an abso-  
 lutely pure fonetic spelling is a long  
 way in the future; and seed fonetic

spelling will be a growth and not the  
 result of any sudden revolution.

2. For present purposes, we need an  
 orthography as nearly fonetic as may be  
 and yet so like the old that any person  
 who can read the old can also read the  
 new without preparatory study.

3. The foregoing need is best sup-  
 plied by (a) retaining the digraphs *ou* or  
*oe*, *ch*, *sh*, *th*, *ng*, and *zh* for *s* as in  
*vision*, which, with one exception, *ch*,  
 actually picture the organs of speech  
 in making the *c* (thongs and trifthong  
 which they severally represent. (b) The  
 introduction of 8 modifications of the  
 vowels *a* represent the vowel sounds  
 unprovided for in the old orthography;  
 (c) dropping all silent letters and spelling  
 according to sound.

[What Mr. G. has stated with judicial  
 precision is the platform of this journal.  
 At p. 3 of Jan. no. will be found a solu-  
 tion of the problem fulfilling in prac-  
 tice the above theoretical conditions. A  
 betw, the best, solution is wisht. Dr.  
 Larison of Ringoes, New Jersey, has  
 another solution covering the same  
 ground. Those interested should remit  
 him for specimen. Others take different  
 ground. To these we shall call atten-  
 tion. The views of Prof. Scott and Mr.  
 G. are beacons lighting the way to the  
 same goal.—ED.]

Dr. J. J. Wadsworth, Inspector of  
 schools for Norfolk County, writes from  
 Simcoe: 'I am in sympathy with the  
 movement to abolish once and forever  
 the barbarous system of spelling which  
 we now have and which is one of the  
 greatest barriers to the education of  
 the masses that we have to contend with

KEY:—Pronounce the following letters like the *static* in the word under each:  
 Aa Qa Qa Be Ee Ii fi Oo Oo Uu Uu Uu  
 at art als ell eel ill I nor not note ast put truth

Optional contractions: q for yu, q for yu, as mytqai, mutual; actqai, actual.  
 In writing, the shape Ee is made thus: Ee.

a, u, o, e, U.—In the article in last type, the 5 new letters e, a, o, e, and u  
 are employed. This gives a very legible orthography—a maximum of approximation  
 to the principle of a sign for each sound with a minimum of change from the  
 forms now in use. With the 5 old vowels and these new ones, we have 10  
 vowel signs. Separate signs are still needed for long e, long i, and long u: for  
 these, expedients are resorted to, those of the old spelling being chosen in pre-  
 ference to new ones, as a rule, on the principle: *Change nothing which need  
 be changed again.* The old vowels a, e, i, o, u, are given as their fundamen-  
 tal values the vowel sounds in the words pat, pet, pit, poet, put, respectively.

## HWARIN SPELING REFORMRZ AGREE.

Ther ar diferensez ov opinyun among speling reformrz, az ther ar in everi ɔrganizashun ov men hu hav a comon end in view; but theze diferensez ar not vital and the ar constantli groing les. Upon the jeneral prinsiplz ov the reform and upon ther practical aplicashun, ɛl reformrz, ecsept a few irreconsilablz, such az hang around the ej ov everi gret movement, ar substanshali ov won mind. It wil be wel tu stat sum ov the chief points upon hwich ther iz jeneral agreement:

1. The speling ov Inglish ɛt tu be reformd.
2. It can be reformd.
3. The reform shud begin nou.
4. The reform must rest on a fonetic basis.
5. Onli bred and wel defined distingshunz ov sound shud be mad.
6. The fonetic alfabet must be mad by furst cɔrecting and then increasing the old alfabet.
7. The old alfabet mǎ and shud be cɔrected (1) by confining each letr tu its orijinal—Roman ɛr Inglish—power, (2) by substituting it for eni uthr letr ɛr combineshun ov letrz nou havng that power, and [3] dropping ɛl silent letrz.
8. The old alfabet me and shud be increast [1] by the invenshun ov new letrz, ɛr, [2,] by the use ov new digrafs.
9. New letrz must be simpler in ferm and must hav a jeneral rezemblans tu the old letrz.

PROF. CHARLZ P. G. SCOT.

PLEZ SUBSCRIBE.—Thoz hu resev this ar askt tu giv a suportng patronej tu a rashunal orthograft. We spek becɔz the subject haz ben neglected: fer 'hwot iz everibɔdiz biznes iz nobɔdiz biznes.' Ther ar impravments in everithng els, even in hwot iz yuzd but seldom: hwb not in this, the most ɛfn yuzd

THE FONETIC HERALD iz publisht monthly (except July and Aug.) It iz devoted tu PRONUNCIATION and the elucidation and exemplification ov the *simplicity* and *practicability* ov amending our ORTHOGRAFY so az tu spel by *sound* aproximatly insted ov by *memory*. Price: 2 copiz, 25 cents a year; 5 copiz, 50 c.; 12 for \$1. Az soon az circulation wil warrant, its size wil be dubld and price 25 c. a year. Thoz who take several copiz shud distribute them.—Adres *Fonetic Herald*, Port Hope, Canada. British ɛr U. S. stamps taken. PUBLISHERS who giv a notis ov *Herald* and send us such notis wil receiv a copy free for 1885.