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The Herald.

DEVOTED TO PRONUNCIATION AND AMENDED SPELLING.

3rd YEAR.

TORONTO, CANADA, Aug., 1887.

N^o. 26.

—Dr Usa Her rîts from Du-
byq: “Yur last is ecselemt. $\text{\textcircled{E}}$
is preferd tu $\text{\textcircled{E}}$ or $\text{\textcircled{P}}$; and $\text{\textcircled{i}}$, tu $\text{\textcircled{j}}$.
Yur shap ($\text{\textcircled{a}}$); tho lik $\text{\textcircled{u}}$, is bet-
er than $\text{\textcircled{u}}$ fer $\text{\textcircled{oo}}$. $\text{\textcircled{U}}$ is a gud
shap. I canot endyr $\text{\textcircled{ei}}$ or $\text{\textcircled{ci}}$
fër $\text{\textcircled{i}}$, nør $\text{\textcircled{yu}}$ fër $\text{\textcircled{y}}$ ecsept fer
the pronoun.”

—Mr W. A. Douglas, B. A.,
advocated Amended Speling
at the resent meting ov Cana-
dian Shørthand Asosiashn in
Tòrento Shørthand rîters un-
derstand redily enuf the basis
on which Simplifid Speling
must rest, but most ov them ar
indiferent or wurs: ther bet-
er jujment beclouded with bigoted
prejudis. The ned awakening.

—Prof. Max Müller in tretis
on Siens ov Languej sez: “Wun
argument which mit be supozd
tu we with the student ov lan-
guej, nemly, the obscyrashn ov
the etumolojical structyr ov
wurds. I canot consider very
fèrmidabl The pronunsiashn
ov languejes chenjes acørding
tu fixt lør, the speling is cænjd
in the most arbitrary maner, so
that if our speling folod the pro-
nunsiashn ov wurds, it wud in
reality be a grater help tu the
critical student ov languej than

the present unsertn and unsien-
tific mod ov rîting.”

—Among the Romans, a pepl
eminently endowd with the fil-
olojical sens, ther wer atempt
ov this kînd, wun ov which is
ov historical notoriety. The
emperer Claudius woz a fonetic
reformer and rot a buk on it in
erly lif. Thre leters as a furst
instelment ov reform he forst
intu yus when he woz emperer.
Tha wer neglected after his tîm
and fergotn. Yet tu ov the thre
hav bsn quietly resumed by a let
posterity. Thez represented I
and U consonants as distinct
from the cognet vouels. In the
sevntenth sentry the Yuropean
pres determind this by the
fèrms J and V. Claudius woz
not however the furst tu direct
atenshn tu the inadequasy ov
the Roman alfabet. Verrius
Flaccus had mæl a memorabl
propozal with regard tu the let-
er M. At the end ov Latin
wurds it woz indistinctly herd,
and therfor he propozd tu cut
the leter in tu, and rît only haf
in such posishns; thus. N.—Erl,
Filolojy, 2d ed., paj 179.

KEY: a æ e e i i e o o u u u
az in art at alo ell eel it I or ox no up put do

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A SPEECH-RECORDER.

Edison's great invention, the fonograf, gave a means of recording actual speech with the marvel that the speech-recording machine could give back the sounds it had recorded. Its mode of riting is a sharp point fast to a vibrating disc. The sharp point makes indentations on thin foil whose surface is fixt to a revolving disc. We believe the indentations furnish no object that could be utilized for study of speech sounds.

Lately we have seen some newspaper notices of improvements in the fonograf, so that its speech-recording powers were improved and the record made more amenable to study and comparison. The improvements were chiefly in the direction of substituting a composition for the foil in fonograf. The composition is of a waxy nature, into which paraffine enters largely. The improvements appeared to emanate from Washington, D. C., and Cleveland, Ohio. Beyond uncertain reports there is nothing to hand.

Recently, Prof. Hensen, of Kiel, has published an important paper (*Zeitschrift für Biologie*, Band xxiii, 291) on the graphic exhibition of sound vibrations. In the same number of the *Zeitschrift* will be found Dr. Paul Wendeler's description of an attempt to represent graphically the vibratory curves of some consonants and of other sounds with Hensen's speech-riter. Hensen, in his paper, does not attempt to describe accurately the "logograf," or word-riter, as given in its older form in Gruetznier's "Fysiology of Speech." His object is rather to point out principles on which such an apparatus should be constructed. The receptive membran should resemble the ear drummed as closely as possible. In order to get even riting for differing pitch, a heavy damper, a stiff membran, and very minute riting are essential. The riting is done by a delicate glass splinter attached to vibrating membran which by its motion produces tracings on a visible smokt-glas plate. Wendeler employs steel pens instead of glass. The greatest elongations seldom exceed one-fifth millimetre, and so are less than one-hundredth inch. The curves have to be rendered visible by microscope with power of 300 to 400 diameters. A longer pen or splinter is found not to be as good as a short one.

We are likely to learn much about laws of vibration from graphic representation and permanent fixation of sound waves. A careful study of curves is necessary to understand the subject thoroughly. To cite a few examples, vowel curves are nearly pure, consonant curves in each word are combined with curve of preceding and following vowel. It appears that intermittent curves representing pseudo-vibrations; M, N, and L exhibit vowel-like curves:

S gives a mixt curve. In highest octaves there are 1000 to 1500 vibrations per second. When the artificial membran is less tensed the vibrations are undeniably more extensive but soon become quite indistinct. Hence if we stretch the sensitive receptive membran we obtain an extremely advantageous representation of vowel curves, while consonants are shown off more distinctly on a membran slightly relaxed.

POPULAR STAGE.

At the General Meeting, in May, of the French Association, there came up for discussion whether they should modify, and how far, certain rules for slightly amending current French Spelling—rules we have already given. A speaker counseled moderation in opposition to some restles to go fast. We are facing the same problem as they. The speaker put the case so well that we prefer to quote:

[Translation] "The end to attain is radical reform, not orthographic alone, but alphabetic. Now, such reform includes repeated experiments as well as serious studies. *These experiments will be disastrous if made on the public; but we can make them in school in teaching children to read by means of fonetic alphabets.* We no already that children learn more quickly to read by means of any fonetic alphabet whatever than by ordinary one: So that our experiments will be useful to the children.....Meanwhile, let us continue to employ reformed orthography which, in reforming some of the grossest anomalies, serves to affirm our principles and habituate the public to the idea of a reform. To go farther will vex and discourage those who already take pains to rite and print in Simplified Spelling.....He had in press a linguistic work in which he employed Simplified Sp. but, if that is to be [eternally] changing, he would stick to Academic orthography."

The above is from the *Bulletin Mensuel*, the monthly mouthpiece of the French Society. The rules were ultimately referred to a committee which was to examine them fully and make report, which, will be final, presumably, for popular missionary work should its report be adopted.

Rev. DAVID SWING, the well-known Chicago preacher, thus expresses his opinion of Amended Spelling, which we reproduce as we find it spelt in a daily paper:

"It seems at first glance like a cruel slaughter of shade trees and pet birds and the family dog; but if one will look at the matter calmly he will see that it is no destruction at all, but is really an improvement of the old house, a trimming of the hedge, a mending of all the old fences, a making of a turnpike where there has been too long a mud-road, and the hanging of a neat gate where our fathers were wont to let down heavy bars. 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 bigotry and stupidity. The human race that will from deliberate choice spelt the word program, programme, and tsisk, phthisic, and which, when its folly is pointed to, will proceed to affirm that it prefers the longest way of spelling a word, should be compelled to go back to canal-boats and pack-horses and dip candles and to sermons two hours long. Progress is a universal movement of all things."

A STANDARD SPEECH.

[TRANSLATION].

Defenders of traditional spelling assert that spelling by sound cannot be systemized because it would be impossible to preserve uniformity of pronunciation with wide difference in speech. They do not consider that every country has a cultivated, a scholarly [standard] language; and this is the language referred to in speaking of writing by sound, and not dialects, nor business talk. The unavoidable, these increasing differences have not been proved insurmountable. The *Fonetic Herald*, published in Port Hope, Canada, in its 19th number (Nov. 1886), quotes a statement of a fact which decidedly contradicts the aforesaid assertion. It says:

"This is the only great country which has but one language. In England, the Yorkshireman cannot talk with the man from Cornwall. The peasant of the Ligurian Apennines drives his goats home at evening over hills that look down on six provinces, neither of whose dialects he can speak or comprehend. The European railways take the traveler where he hears a score of dialects in a single day. While here, from forests of Maine to the glowing savannas of the great Gulf and far to the Pacific coast, there are a hundred races, but there is only one language."

Australia, too, might be mentioned among them. There we hear the same sounds as in N. America; and this condition will continue for many generations because the general language is more highly valued than the dialects. Probably this will change in course of centuries, but orthography has to take cognizance of the present alone.—Dr. FRICKE, of Wiesbaden, Germany, in *Norden (Prussia) Reform*.

CORRESPONDENCE.

EXPEDIENTS.

SIR,—In your issue before last you speak of the Jones-Burnz School as "resorting to new expedients;" and you recommend "use of such equivalents as appear common in the old orthography." Now, the Jones-Burnz method of amended spelling has for its basis, and distinguishing characteristic, the principle, that *sounds shall be expressed by the letters and combinations of letters which, in the ordinary spelling, most usually represent those sounds, without any reference to the sounds those characters represent in other languages.* It is this use of Roman letters with reference to English values alone, which keeps the Anglo-American school (as it is termed) separate from most other schemes, and makes it unpopular with linguists; the such use of Roman letters produces a fonetic print which is read without trouble by any person who can read ordinary English. I think Mr. Jones as well as myself would be perfectly willing to admit a few market letters, to take the place of digraphs in certain positions where it might be deemed best.

New York.

ELIZA B. BURNZ.

—Mr. McCulla, Brampton, Ont., very sensibly leaves off the useless *gh* often found at the end of the name.

—Division into syllables to show pronunciation is not the same as division to show etymology.—*Melvil Bell*.

—The difficulty of attaining good ends measures their stability when achieved.—*Zenos Clark*.

—Prof. P. Meyer, director of *l'Ecole des Chartes*, Paris, gives his pupils amusing lectures on the absurdities of French Spelling.—*Paris Teacher*.

—A dictionary of London slang and cant, written in German by Heinrich Bauman, has been published in Berlin. The pronunciation is given in a German fonetic system.

—Last year, the Ont. Teachers' Association appointed a committee to report on Amended Spelling. Their report, made this year, at the annual meeting in August, was received and ordered to be printed in minutes. Its discussion is expected at annual meeting next August.

—The reader should not run away with either the impression or conclusion that we endorse every opinion in these columns. We give each "for what it is worth," unless given special editorial commendation. You are at liberty to combat what is wrong. "Prove all things: hold fast what is good."

—Thoughtful educators have repeatedly called attention to the blighting and stultifying influence which spelling has upon the young mind. It is so unvaryingly the child's nature to infer that a certain result will always follow from a given set of antecedent circumstances, when such a result has once been demonstrated to him, that he proverbially needs but one acquaintance with fire to find out that it burns and to conclude that it will do so every time he comes in contact with it. Just as certainly, when he is taught that *t-h-o-u-g-h* stands for *tho*, does he believe that *t-h-r-o-u-g-h* represents *thro*, until his teacher undecives him—or deceives him into believing that it is *thro*. Reason and experience are set at naught and he is thrown back upon mere dogmatic authority. It is so because it is so, whether it is so or not. Is this a form of mental exercise to which we should wish to subject the unfolding intelligence of future free American citizens?—J. B. Howard at Cincinnati Literary Club.

A young man with very marked ptosis, once met a sweet girl who sold ptosis.

Said she, "Will you try

Some flowers for your eye?"

But he answered her pleasantly, "Pno, sis." [eye.]

—N. Y. Medical Record.

HOW IT CAME ABOUT.—Our grandmother tung, the Anglo-Saxon, had a pretty good alfabet. The Roman misionaris who converted the nation redust the language to riting in Roman leters with their comon Latin powers, ading a few runes and digrafs for sounds which did not ocur in Latin. Our woos sprang from the Norman conquest. The French and Anglo-Saxons united to form the English nation, and their languages wer thrown into a sort of hotch-potch to form the English language. Many words of each nation wer hard for the others to pronounce. They wer spelt by the scolars to whom they wer nativ in the old book fashn, but peopl did not pronounce them corectly. Many leters wer left silent or inserted to no purpos, in il-directed atempts to represent the strange combinations. Then great changes took place in the hole gamut, so to speak, of our vowel sounds. Peopl hardly knew what was the matr as the change went on. We finaly arived at a sort of Chinese ideografic system. The rith words ar asociated with tho'ts without referene to the sounds which separat leters indicate. Changes in sounds of words go on with no record in the riting. Ingenius etymologists slip in new silent leters as records of history drawn from their imagination, old monsters fertil in the popular fancy propagatethemselves in the congenial environments, and altogether we hav ataind the worst speling on the planet.—*March*.

— The fault in our present speling is that we hav contradictory analogis whereas we o't to hav harmonius ones. We hav *coat* and *note*, *dine* and *sign*, *beauty* and *duty*, *rite* and *right*, *fate*, *wait* and *weight*, and others. I submit that the reduction of our speling to uniform analogical principls is the first step, at any rate, in Speling Reform. For my own part, I consider it is the only reform needed. I submit also that it is a practicabl reform; and my opinion is that to aim at more, if it be not even to atempt a mischivus thing is to uterly waste one's efforts. Had a tithe of the agitation against our speling been directed against our incongruus analogis, something might hav been acomplisht.—J. B., in *Newswal Cronicle*.

COLOQUIAL PRONUNCIATION.—A cote-noporary givs the foloing as a sampl of the colloquial orthoëpy curent among boys:—"Warejego lasnigh?" "Hadder skate." "Jerfind the ice hard'nood?" "Yes; hard'nough." "Jer goerlone?" "No; Bill'n Joe wenterlonz." "Howlate jerstay?" "Pastate." "Lemmeno wenyergoin, woncher? I wanter go'nsho-oyer howto skate." "H'm, ficoodn' skate better'n you I'd sell out'nquit." "Well, we'll tryerace'nseefyercan."

A RECEIPT FOR COLD FEIPT.

For nothing at all we will give a receipt
For pleasantly warming in winter your foipt.

First see that the shoes or the boots you may
Are polish^{wear}ed each morning with scrupulous
cear.

This reason is founded on science, you know,
And will, if it's followed, relieve you of wow.

Don't purchase a tight-fitting boot or a shoe,
But got a size largor, or, better, got toe.

Be sure they are stout ones and perfectly whole,
Madelow in the heel, thick and broad in the wole.

Then oiling them, go without rubbers, which
An't make your feet tender through coldness and
wont.

Some folks cotton stockings prefer, but they
Wear socks made of woolen as those are more
gould.

For feet, like you: face which in winter is bare,
Grow tough when exposed to the frost in the are.

No chilblains will itch you or give you an ache
If, when 't is bad-time, ice-l water you'll tache

And plunge your feet in it—then rub 'em with
Until they grow scarlet and—probably whight.

Now toast 'em awhile by the grato, and, I guess
You'll find this receipt for cold feet a success.

N. B.

Some husbands, who think they're sharp as a
Will warn their cold feet on a poor, sleepy
knifo
kwife.

That's cold-blooded murder for which women wise
Should get a divorce from such marital tise.

JENNIE KERR, in *Phrenological Journal*.

BISMARCK AND THE GERMAN ALFABET.—Prince Bismarck has been the most go-ahed of practical statesmen, but on one point he is obstinat and retrograde. For ten years ther has been a stedy effort made all over Germany to get rid of the Germ in character in printing and riting. * * * Six years ago he cause'd certn manuals at the Chancery that had been printed in Latin characters to be reprinted in Gothic type. Ther was great outcry at the time, and men of sience aserted that the prevalence of near-sight among the German peopl was due to this trying and minute type. But the Chancelor never yields, and now within the week he has sent bak several blu books issued by the Berlin Magistracy and had them reprinted for his own convenience in the type he defends.—*Pall Mall Gazette*.

POOR LETR 'G.—*The Duchess*: "Yes, 'skattin' wud be charmin' if it wern't for the freezin' stoppin' the huntin'! *Lord Charles*: "Yes, and ain't sleighin' toppin' fun, except for the snowin' spoilin' the skatin'!"—*Punch*.