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The Herald.

DEVOTED TO PRONUNCIATION AND AMENDED SPELLING.

VOL. II, 1.

TORONTO, CANADA, Jan., 1897.

N^o. 51.

GREETING.

THE HERALD appeared as a four page monthly for 5 years ending Dec. 1889. Its 50 issues, 200 pages, compose Vol. I. Its publication is now resumed quarterly, beginning Vol. II. It may appear monthly should sufficient encouragement offer and time permit.

In the 7 years of its suspension there has been activity and consequent development or growth in recording facts of vocal physiology. It is thought that its pages should more fully report and reflect this than has ever been attempted by any journal advocating Amended Spelling.

That all this and more is necessary has been well said by Dr Sweet:—

"We may distinguish two stages in dealing with the problem of sound-notation. The first is to recognize fully its importance—to recognize that the problem of writing sounds is fully as important as analyzing them. The second is to recognize its difficulties, and at the same time to recognize that these difficulties can be grappled with only by scientific methods. It is in this way only that we can hope for a satisfactory result. The history of the English Spelling Reform Association is decisive on this point. When we began deliberations there was general belief that reform was really very simple—all that was needed was a little common sense. When, however, common sense had gone on for years, hatching one scheme after the other, it became necessary to try something else. We then began to see that accurate knowledge of the facts of pronunciation would be a help in settling spelling."

There has now been a full half century of attempts at reforming the spelling of our language, nearly every attempt possessing more or less merit. The riter has been aware personally of the different schemes as they were promulgated during 40 years. His recollection will be of use in a choice or eclectic Orthography. The time has now come for comparing plans. Critical examination will reveal what principles underlie. It is believed that foundation can be laid for a true Orthography worthy the name of being called right, straight (Greek, *orthos*) or regular, *i. e.*, according to rule or law. Such word-forms should be selected as find more general acceptance and on which we may unite to begin the century

4 years hence, in Jan. 1901—a time quite short, yet enough for a band of earnest workers to do much.

The need of building on established principles will be kept in view always. The words of Dr Latham, published so long ago as 1849, express this; so we quote it as deserving entire approbation:—

"No condition is more necessary for the success of a projected system of orthography than that it should be as much as possible a necessary deduction from fixed principles, and as little as possible a matter of arbitrary invention. Now, the arbitrary elements of a reformed orthography should be as few as possible; since, as long as they are arbitrary, they will vary with the peculiar views of the innovator—and as one innovator will rarely give up his own details for those of another, there is no means of insuring uniformity except by laying down preliminary common principles, and admitting some common principle of reasoning upon them."

It will mirror advance in 4 directions:—

1, Amended Spelling, using word-forms like these now meeting the reader's eye—partial rectification of current spelling by, *a*, OMISSIONS, and, *b*, some CHANGES, so far as likely to be accepted by the public.

2, Developing the word-forms of a true Orthography. As Prof. Max Müller says: "Express broad and typical pronunciation by appropriate symbols and then direct learners to *spell by the book*."

3, Orthoepy, or Pronunciation, discussed, exemplified and elucidated in dialectic as well as standard aspects. This is Applied or Special Phonetics—applied to our own and other languages, living or dead.

4, Pure or General Phonetics, treating of the phenomena of vocal physiology, but rather of the Speaking than of the Singing Voice.

These four divisions do not conflict but can be lucidly interwoven.

The difficulties and expenses of notation are considerable. It is thought that these can be overcome by the comparatively simple notation used by the riter.

In accepting generally the orthoepy of the dictionary it must not be forgotten that the last few years has been productive of great advances in lexicography. To Webster and

NEW SPELLING

Worcester in cisatlantic circles there have been added the *Century* and *Standard Dictionary* with revision of Webster called *International* and one of Worcester is under way; in transatlantic circles, to Stormonth and Ogilvie, often called *Imperial*, there has been added Murray's, or *New Eng. Dict'y* of the Philol^c Soc'y, so far published as to be useful, while a *Dialect Dict'y* is promised. Passy's *Maitre Phonétique* still comes regularly from Paris printed throughout in an alphabet capable of expressing most modern languages and is an actual polyglot, but in colloquial speech only, not in its vocabulary or standard dictionary forms. Besides, Prof. Vietor's *Phonetische Studien* now published as a supplement to *Neuere Sprachen* (i. e., Modern Languages) discussing higher linguistics in formal papers by different writers, each article being printed in the language of the writer himself. Recent publication of Part V of Ellis' great work on *Pronunc'n*, with activity by Dialect and Philological Societies (through their publications) on both sides of the Atlantic, altogether opens up a new era which should herald advancement in Alfabetic Science.

Without support little real progress can be made. In the words of A. J. Ellis:—

"Truth is great and must prevail.
Trite the adage: How? and when?
Trial tells another tale;
Truth HAS FAILED; will fail again,
If not bakt by truthful men."

Its fuller title is: THE HERALD OF NEW SPELLING, A CRITICAL REVIEW, REGISTER, NEWS RECORD, EXPONENT AND REPORTER OF PROGRESS IN ALFABETIC SCIENCE—summed up in *News, Criticism, Progress*.

If 100 earnest workers will circulate, judiciously and carefully, an average of 100 copies (in all, 10,000 quarterly) it can soon spread such knowledge of Amended Spelling, and the principles and practicability of true Orthography, that thinkers would be largely levend thereby.

Each subscriber will be a missionary, the main-spring in the circle of his own influence. He will receive regularly AT LESS THAN COST a tool with which effective work may be done if so disposed.

THE ORTHOGRAPHIC UNION.

The Orthographic Union began 1½ years ago. Its secretary is F. A. Fernald, of Morris Heights, N. Y. City. Its first annual report appeared in midsummer. It has 193 members, of which

"The names . . . are largely those who exert notable influence on public opinion in various fields and who have in their power to employ this influence in promoting the objects of the Union."

Its immediate work, it goes on to say,

"should be, not advocacy of any perfected and far-reaching system of reform but a simple attempt

to induce people to make those first steps toward better things the propriety of which can be questioned by no one who believes in reform at all. . . . Accordingly, five classes of simplified forms which conform in general to these conditions have been selected, and a leaflet explaining them printed. . . . There has been prepared an Alfabetic List of words in general use that fall into the several classes in form of a 24 page pamphlet of post card size."

This word-list comprises over 1000 words "mostly selections from alternative spellings already in use or improvements proposed by scientific and other learned societies, and include such changes only as a considerable number of authors, editors and educators express willingness to unite in using."

The 5 classes are: (1) words of which the type is *banisht*—a preterit *ed* changed to *i*; (2) words like *doctrin, docil, program, favorit, quartet, infinit, flexil*; (3) miscellaneous words, as *adz, ar, plow, wagon*; (4) terms in chemistry, as *fibrin, oxid, sulfur*; that is, improved spelling advocated by Assoc'n for Adv't of Science; (5) names of places and people, as recommended by Royal Geographic Soc'y and U.S. Board on Geographic Names, such as *Amur, Bering, Chile, Tibet, Tokyo, Sudan*.

THE CASE ADMITTED.

Admission that the spelling reformer has proved his case is now general—denial is rare. The latest admission comes from the *London Times*, conservative in everything else, therefore noteworthy. Towards the close of 1895 a controversy sprang up in its columns *re* sp'g ref'm. The editor summed up:—

"There have been many revolts against the tyranny of the rules of orthodox spelling, but seldom have rebels been so daring and sanguine as in the latest outbreak chronicled in correspondence in our columns. Advocates of change are not crotchety-mongers, or men of no literary authority. Advocates of individual liberty in spelling are not merely candidates in competitive examinations, still smarting from recollection of failure, but scholars and students of our language. Prof. Earle and Dr. Abbott join forces against the despotism of rigid official orthography. The present system is wasteful and unprofitable. It occupies youth at the most receptive time of life, to exclusion of matters much more important. Nobody is gainer by the rigor now in force. In truth we are not sure if the Professor be not right in his suggestive letter, that correct spelling is a positive evil, if not something to be ashamed of. A case, no doubt, has been made out for greater license than some examiners tolerate; and Civil Service Commissioners would do well to take note of points made by our correspondents. To 'pluk' a lad because he spells 'judgment' with two e's; to ignore the difference in practice of educated men in regard to scores of words [Webster's 4th Dictionary gives 1574 words spelled in two or more ways]; to be blind to modern movements in spelling which Canon Girdlestone has pointed out in our columns, is pedantry without the redeeming virtue of accuracy. Most people will be convinced by the controversy of the reasonableness of what may be called constitutional freedom in spelling. But one or two of our correspondents seem inclined to authorize a state of downright anarchy. Everyone will agree, 'Down with the purit-t.'"

Mention of "anarchy" vs "constitutional freedom" refers to one or two who prefer to "spel as you please"—most miscellaneous doctrine. "Constitutional" or fixt

and systematic orthography is necessary—indeed indispensable in printing offices and for national literatures—looseness will never do. In this the *Times* is right. Further, though a standard comparatively fixed is insisted on by the Press, yet the existing slavish and over-rigid adherence to it is evil and should be relaxed in *writing*, for:—

“More than one of our correspondents, irritated by the lengths to which pedantry has gone, have written as if there ought to be no standard. The fairer inference, from their arguments, is, that a standard should exist, and that lexicographers who now differ should come to agreement as to words now in dispute; but that deviations from rule should be punished less severely; that there should be fewer capital offenses, and that examiners, in particular, should have power of pardoning which they seem to think does not now belong to them. ‘Moderate latitudinarianism,’ to use Dr Abbott’s phrase, would be reasonable.”

FIXT SPELLING.

Scholars and printers differ as to necessity for establishment of word-forms, as is shown by the *Times*’ view given elsewhere, but they must not remain at variance. On one hand Prof. Earle wrote:—

“The way to slow but natural reform is to relinquish coercion and let all men spell as they like, [This prevailed before Caxton,] trusting that the natural process of survival of the fittest will in due time bring about improvement.”

On the other hand the *Times* says:—

“But is each man in this to be a law unto himself? The question has a practical side. ‘One has to be inside a printing-office to appreciate difficulties of the situation,’ says Mr Horace Hart, printer to the University of Oxford. There are obvious business objections to following Nature’s spelling. In a private letter latitude is permissible without inconvenience. But we presume that an author must be consistent in spelling if his pages are not to be unsightly and perplexing. It will not be suggested that each contributor to a newspaper should, in this, go his own way. The result would be confusion and ambiguity. The letters of Mr Randall, treasurer of the London Association of Correctors for the Press, mentions a consideration of weight; uncertainty as to spelling means practical evils. It means so much loss of time and money that the Association of Correctors for the Press has helped its members by compiling a list of most common doubtful words and coming to agreement as to their spelling. Mr Hart described in our columns the efforts made in connection with the Clarendon Press to bring about uniformity. He compiled a set of rules, and offered to send copies to those chiefly interested. ‘The extent to which this offer was immediately appreciated was rather startling, and showed universality of need for a settlement. I received letters from all parts of Britain, Ireland, India, America and the Colonies; and letters still come dropping in asking for these rules.’”

Right here is a chief cause why we make slow advances: we have left the Press out of account. In word-forms it demands fixity, stability and uniformity. Its demand is decisive and inexorable, though not loud. One of Caxton’s early troubles (of which he gave a graphic sketch) was to establish, or *fix* so that it would stay *fixed* for the time at least in his own office, a suitable set of word-forms. The requirement has grown stronger with

time as the Press realize the advantages of stability whether the word-forms be good or bad. They cannot accept even good forms till generally favored and systematic. We shall justify our statements. Meantime, the Press is too busy to listen to what they *will* retard their work and cause mischief. They may listen when we have a systematic true Orthography to offer, not before.

This is not new: Callendar considered it “essential to spelling reform” (*HERALD*, June, ’89.) Fricke did the same, at least 8 years ago (*HERALD*, Feb., ’89.) His “Warning Call to Agreement” went unheeded. Will our voice, crying in the wilderness of discord, be better received? Knudsen said in these columns that all variable word-forms were “crude and impracticable.” The veterans Fricke and Knudsen have gone to their rest.

Even if the Press would be satisfied with disorder, would the literary world be content to put up with it? Let us read:—

“The result of greater license and general indulgence to spell as one pleases would be startling. It could not be confined to English. Those absolved for spelling a word in their own language according to their fancy could not be condemned if they spelled French and German phrases as seemed best to them. Their would always be the excuse that exercise of a little ingenuity would reveal the writer’s intentions to any intelligent reader. We could not well object to similar freedom on the part of foreigners: advocates of *laissez faire, laissez passer* [“let-it-alone, go-as-you-please”] in spelling must contemplate the contingency of no two French books being printed alike, of the immense variety once existing in French orthography reappearing, and of difficulty of mastering a foreign tongue being prodigiously increased. Spelling and pronunciation are bound up closely together; is there to be individual liberty in both? Spelling and dialects also are connected; is any authority to control the latter? Voltaire, who derided the orthography of French books of his time as ridiculous—admitting that English orthography was still more absurd—described the ideal system when he said: ‘Writing is the painting of the voice; the closer the resemblance the better the picture.’ Unfortunately, perfect likeness is not attainable; it is found more convenient to agree on conventional representation than to circulate a multitude of bad copies unlike each other.’”

A COVER.—A 4 page cover for our little paper is promised as soon as typographic obstacles allow. It will contain a Platform, a Key with fuller explanation, a Table for transliteration, and other matters.

SPECIMENS.—Elsewhere are to be found three specimens of 10-Vowel Orthography. Fairly they may be said to be *without new letters*: for 2 letters, *ð* and *ɪ*, are but *restored* from the 13th century when *ð* went out and habit of dotting *ɪ* began; 2 others are already in use: *a* as italic *a*, *u* or *ʊ* as small capital for *U* (now they are assigned definite values of *a* in *art* and *u* in *but*); 2 more are *differentiated*, *e* from *æ*, *o* from *ō* by bringing the mark of length from above it to its left. With the 23 effective letters of the old alphabet and these 6 more we have 29.

NEW SPELING

10-VOWEL ORTHOGRAFY.

1. A a, as in cap, at, about, care, air.
 2. Ā ā, " father, far, guard, ah, are.
 3. Ē ē, " ale, ail, they, pray, ache.
 4. E e, " ell, head, learn, ever, says.
 5. I i, " eel, pique, machine, eat.
 6. Ī ī, " ill, hymn, busy, women.
 7. O o, " fond, dog, odd; nor, salt.
 8. Ō ō, " fawned, awed, gnawer, saw.
 9. U u, " note, boat, ore, four, though.
 10. Ū ū, " up, won, come, flood, done.
- ū, " pool, truth, fool, ooze, do
- Diphthongs: oi, as in oil, boy, oyster
 au, " owl, sauer kraut.
 ai, " aisle, mile, my
 iu, " purity, duration.
 iū, " few, hue, duty.

An alfabet of 29 (or 30) letters is uezd:—
 aabc(=k)dĕafghiĵlmnopprstuuvwyz.

SERMON ON ĎE MQUNT.

Blesed ar Ďe pur in spirit: for Ďarz iz Ďe kingdom ov hevñ.

Blesed ar Ďa Ďat morn: for Ďa shal bi cumforted.

Blesed ar Ďe mĳk: for Ďa shal inherit Ďi erth.

Blesed ar Ďa Ďat hunger and therst after raitiosnes: for Ďa shal bi fild.

Blesed ar Ďe mersiful; for Ďa shal obtan mersi.

Blesed ar Ďe piur in hart: for Ďa shal si God.

Blesed ar Ďe pis-makerz: for Ďa shal bi cōld sunz ov God.

Blesed ar Ďa Ďat hav bin persekiūted for raitiosnes sĳk: for Ďarz iz Ďe kingdom ov hevñ. Blesed ar yĳ hwen men shal reproch yu, and persekiūt yu, and se ol maner ov tvl agenst yu folsli for mai sĳk. Rejois and bi ecsĳding glad: for grat iz yur reword in hevñ: for sĳ persekiūted Ďa Ďe profets hwich wer befor yu.

Yĳ ar Ďe solt ov Ďi erth: but if Ďe solt hav lost its savor, hwerwiĎ shal it bi solted? it iz Ďensforth gud for nuthing, but tu bi cast aut and trodn under fut ov men. Yĳ ar Ďe lait ov Ďe wurld. A siti set on a hil cannot bi hid. Nĳder dū men lait a lamp, and put it under Ďe bushel, but on Ďe stand; and it shaineth untu ol Ďat ar in Ďe haus. Ivn sĳ let yur lait shain befor men, Ďat Ďa ma si yur gud wurks and glorifai yur FaĎer in hevñ.

IMPRUVMENT.

Nĳ grat invension ever atand perfecsiōn at wun baund. Ďe histori ov ol sosial or political sistemz iz Ďat ov a sĳriz ov ecsperiments, nau in Ďis direcsiōn, nau in Ďat: hir evolūsiōn, Ďar revolūsiōn, skimz for mĳr perfect wurking brōt tu felyur wun after anuĎer, until parsial succsess iz obtand; Ďen anuĎer rĳadjustment ov condisiōnz, folod bai a brĳk-daun from a defect in mecanizm; Ďen mĳr amendments, mĳr ecsperiments, until, litl bai litl, Ďe sistem aprĳchez perfecsiōn—slĳ, veri slĳ, toilsom, up-hil proses. Iz Ďer cōz for discurejment in Ďe prospect? Iz not Ďis Ďe mĳd bai hwich enithing ov grat and permanent valyu ov manz invension haz bin prodiūst? Hau meni hundred trialz and ecsperiments, hau meni aparent felyurz, hau meni imprūvments and olterasiōnz bai wun inventer after anuĎer wer nesereri befor Ďe stim-enjin araidv at its preznt stat ov perfecsiōn?—PHILIPS THOMSON in *Politics of Labor*, p. 20.

A NATYURALISTS POKETS.

Mĳ Frank Būkland, Ďe famos natyuralist, veri seldom wĳr an overcpt, but hwen hĳ did sĳ, it woz mĳr becōz ov Ďi ecstra pokets it contand Ďan for wormth.

Hwen hĳ returnd from Frans on wun ocaziōn hĳ had it stuft wiĎ natyural histori spesimenz ov ol sorts, ded and aldĳv, amung Ďem a munki plast in a larj brest poket.

Hwen Mĳ B. woz geting Ďe tiket, Ďe munki thrust hiz hed aut and atracted Ďi atensiōn ov Ďe clerk hū imĳdietli sed:—

"Yū must tak an ecstra tiket for Ďat dog."

"Dog!" sed Ďe natyuralist. "It 's no dog."

But Ďe clerk sed: "Yū must pa for it." Ďe natyuralist tuk a tortis aut ov hiz poket, and sed: "Perhaps yu cōl Ďis a dog?"

"No," sed Ďe clerk. "Wĳ mak nĳ charj for Ďem; Ďa 'r insects."

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