



# The Herald.

DEVOTED TO PRONUNCIATION AND AMENDED SPELLING.

4<sup>TH</sup> YEAR.

TORONTO, CANADA, Mar., 1888.

N<sup>R</sup> 32.

## EXAMINATION PAPER.

(To be answered from previous issues.)

1. Specify over 20 ways in which close i (as in eel) is represented in English.
2. Give derivation of *beauty*, *island*, *defence*, *governor*.
3. What six "shade vowels" are claimed to need discrimination?
4. In Romanized Japanese what two vowels are marked? How is it proposed to obviate this disfigurement of page? Who propose a system for us more outrageously marked than even Japanese?
5. What faulty pronunciation of *ox*, *not*, etc., is found in N. Y. and elsewhere?
6. Is s right or wrong in *Spenser* and *Chaucer* (poets), *practise* (verb), and *supersede*?
7. Define *dithong*.
8. Give some account of how Dutch orthography was reformed.

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- Club of Eight, Toronto; (got by Master Norman A. Roberts.)  
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R. Mathison, Director Def-Dum Inst., Belleville, Ont.; (got by A. Hamilton.)

— Ar the foloing ded — ?

Charles Potter, B.A., Iroquois, Ont.  
J. D. Huntingdon, S. Norwalk, Conn.

— Knudsen says: "In books for school use, the accent should be indicated in every word. If this be done entirely by the accent mark it will give the printed page a rather confused appearance." To avoid this let it be understood that the accent is on the first syllable unless marked otherwise. Few accent marks will then be required because majority of our words have accent on first syllable. The genius of our language is to throw the accent forward. Thus, altho it is on second syllable of *compare*, yet it is on the first in the derived word *comparabl*, altho first syllable is a prefix.

## TRIAL CORNER.

— For full explanation as to the steps of spelling found in large type, refer to page 95, bottom second column.

— In Toronto are no less than for *Heralds*, the *Gospel*, *Cristian*, *Temperans* and this. Tho' they neglect to give full address (125 Harbord St.) should not express surprise if their letters miscarry. . . . . A full set of *Herald* are yet obtainable.

— The many points of agreement among Spelling Reformers comprehend much, and show a substantial unanimity profetic of full concord and final triumph. Let friends of the reform take heart. Nonsense and reason and the spirit of the age are on their side: only apathy, ignorance and a little blind sentiment are opposed. Arouse that apathy, enlighten that ignorance, be patient with that sentiment, and the spirit of the age will assert itself, the slow-governed Public will become a supporter, and the cause will be won. Mention, we must keep on preaching: "PRÆTEREA CENSEO CARTHAGINEM ESSE DELENDAM." — Correspondent of N. Y. Independent.

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### ETHNOLOGY AND LANGUAGE.

At meeting of Assoc'n for Advancement of Science, Buffalo, N. Y., in Aug. '86, Mr. Horatio Hale, of Clinton, Ont., read a paper on the "Origin of Language," maintaining that it cud, wud, has, and does originate spontaneously, giving exampls of such, one in Kingston, Canada, where two children playing together develop a new language. It is thus possibl to hav new language-centers develop b cast-a-ways on out of the way coasts. To say that the hypothesis is plausible is to dam it with faint praise: it is highly probabl. We shal not be surpris'd at its verification, when time shal hav bit up a fortres of facts as a foundation.

The same riter, at meeting of the Assoc'n this year, red a second paper, propounding language as a beter basis for classifying races, than color of skin, or any artificial distinction. His more completed views on this constitute his articl on "Race and Language," in *Pop. Science Monthly* for Jan. This proposal of language as basis for ethnology indicates a new departure. The old classification is perhaps no more satisfactory than was the system of Linnæus in Botany.

"The Botany of Linnæus, a purely artificial system, was a contribution to human noledg, and did more in its day to enlarge the view of the vegetabl kingdom than all that had gon before. But all artificial systems must pas away. None new beter than the great Swedish naturalist that his system, being artificial, must pas away. Nature must be red in its own light. And as the botanic field became more luminous, the system of Jussieu and De Candolle sloyly emerged as a nativ growth, unfolded itself as naturally as the petals of one of its own flowers, and forcing itself upon men's intelligence as the very voice of Nature, banisht the Linnæan system forever." (*Drummond*)

Shud Language be the basis of Ethnology it wil require ful and acurat extension of the Sience of Speech-Sounds (in a word Fonetics) first, and Speech must be acuratly recorded. In this view, Speech-Analysis aquires new importance. *A word is composed of Sounds*: these ar to be studid, insted of, as hitherto, the leters, "the ded conventionalitis of orthografy." Linguists hav hitherto lookt at the leters too much as composing the word. This has led them into many absurd vagaris until the old etymology is but a series of fancis and wild geses. The new etymology is fast rising on a Sound basis. Even alredy, however, the correspondence of Race with Language is interesting and this can now be pusht as linguists ar now pursuin'g the study of living speech, or fonetics, with great vigor the world over.

Hale points out one aspect capabl of redy verification:

"Analyze carefully the dialects, nominally English, French, or Spanish, spokn by negro populations of America, and we find in them the best possibl evidence of origin of peopl who speak them. We find European words presented in corrupt state, brokn, distortd, ofn hardly recognizable, the pronunciation strange, the gramr peculiar. Looking still more carefully, we find many words of African origin scattered thru the speech. If history wer silent, these alone wud satisfy us that ther is here a combination of languages, of which we cud detect the varius origins. Experience wud sho that in ovry such case where mixture of language exists, ther has been invariably mixture of blood. Whenever a negro or Indian community speaks a dialect mainly Eng. Fr., or Spanish, we may be certh that ther is in that community considerable infusion of Eng. Fr., or Sp. blood. Tho, in such mingling, the blood of one race and the language of another may preponderate, yet this is not perplexing Speech alone, rightly studid, wil indicate with sufficient clearnes the origin and circumstances of mixture."

### SOUND-BLINDNES.

(From *Science*, 18th Nov., 1887.)

The phenomena of color-blindnes ar wel non, and hav been carefully investigated. We no that some can see great distances, discern minute objects, enjoy works of art and yet ar unable to distinguish certn colors. Physiologists, and especially psychologists, hav also found similar phenomena with hearing. 'Sound-defines' [tone-defines] wud naturally describe this, but many prefer 'sound-blindnes.'

A riter in *London Fur. of Education* uses the term 'sound-blindnes,' and comes to it from a pedagogic stand-point. He states that difficultis some hav in lerning to spel and in lerning to pronounce foren languages suggested sound-blindnes,—"inability to distinguish particular shades of sound, arising from some organic defect in the ear, distinct from defnes as comonly understood.

He notist that a small boy, riting down a line of poetry lern'd by hart, had speld *very* 'voght.' By experiment it was found that he cud hear no diference between 'very,' 'sorry' and 'polly,' and yet was not def. The boy had great difficulty in lerning to read. Teachers testified that it is quite comon to meet children very slo in lerning to read precisely, becaus sounds, diferent to the teacher, wer not diferent to them. When a clas red aloud, some of them ofn giv, insted of a word, its synonym, tho the later be quite diferent in sound from the former. "Boys apt to do this wer those whose power of hearing was alredy under suspision. I inferd that they asociated the printed leters not with their sound but with what they represented, much as if they had seen a picture."

Another interesting observation is that of a boy, aged 11, a bad speler, who, riting from dictation, makes mistakes in words which hav r or l. He cannot pronounce these leters.

His failure is believed to be result of defect of ear, tho by no means def, quite as much as a defect of tung or palat. Some of his misspellings ar 'sunderelents' for 'sundry rents,' 'compreated' for 'complicated,' 'laserlacrions' for 'lacerations.'

The riter points out that want of power to distinguish vowel sounds is quite as likely to be the caus of bad speling in comon words as carelesnes amounting to *malice prepense*, or weaknes in machinery which connects movements of hed with the oiders of ear. He continues:

"We might hav expected that, in analogy with color-blindnes, vowel-sounds wud be more likely to be confused than consonant sounds. S far as my experiments hav gon, I infer that inability to distinguish consonants is as comon as a want of discrimination between vowels.

"The confusion caused by explosiv consonants is however more remarkable than that from vowels; the inexperienced ear if dul at catching consonants is capabl of any distortion of sound. To illustrate this, an experiment was tried with a clas of eleven boys, averaging 10½ years, all able to read fluently, one or two being somewhat extensively readers. Some short ordinary words wer selected, which nearly all got right, and thon words specially to test power of hearing, some of which, it was hoped, they had never hed before. Here ar variations of three words (italicized vowels sho interchange in the hard-vowel scale):

differont	capable	ultramarine
1. diftreant	capbul	ultreman
2. differont		ultramarine
3. diferent	capeperbul	altermarine
4. difrerent	capporble	altermerein
5. diferant	canoble	otfremor
6. difrent	capablo	untummorrein
7. difernt	capabvvely	ultrican
8. difrent	capabibly	ultrern
9. diferant	capabalo	ultermariem
10. differant	ackable	ultermaricn
11. differint	caporble	ultrumerce

"The room was a small one, and the words slyly pronounst twice, each word being ritn immediately after it had been red out. The majority of these boys ar unusually intelligent. The worst speler but one recited, soon after his eighth birthday, "The Bat of Lake Regillus"

"Twenty words in all wer red out. Among them wer 'yellow,' which all got right; 'instance,' five right, one of the best readers giving insentsess; 'anilino,' of which ther appear these variations, 'haniyno,' 'anileng,' 'anelile,' 'ammiene,' 'allience,' the rest being at any rate fonetically correct.

"In majority of these misspellings we at once detect want of experience in use of arbitrary connection between signs and sounds, and feel confident of improvement in time; but when we find a particular fonetic mistake frequently recurring, such as substitution of l for n in 'anilino,' we suspect some defect either in riter or dicator; and, if possibility of mispronunciation in the reader is eliminated, we look for defect of ear or hand, or both, in the riter. Spose that in correcting misspellings we find one or two who can't recognize a word after correct speling has been shown them, while others had no difficulty, we conclude that ear is faulty in the one or two; and if we find that the same individuals can recognize some sounds and not others, the phenomenon of sound-blindnes is establish, and we hav a satisfactory reason for the fact that some persons seem to spel naturally, while others never ern; as, indeed, how shud a man learn to spel even fonetically, to whom not only the printed sign, but also distinction of sounds, is arbitrary and conventional? and how shud he not learn those ear is a torturing conscience?"

—To appreciate the point of a recent joke in *Grip*, the reader has to recollect that *often* and *orphan* ar pron. alike, (r dropt.)

—"Mecanism of Singing Voice" is title of articl in *Forum* for Feb. by Austin Flint, M.D. When we say that Dr. F. is author of a text-book on fysiology and prof. of the same, the reader wil no what to expect.

—*Items of Interest* is a monthly jurnal of dental surgery, publishd at 1413 Filbert street, Philadelphia, edited by T. B. Welch, M.D., \$1 a year. It is advanced and progresiv as to not only teeth but speling: in Feb. no. we note thois (beter, tho'ts) for thoughts, catalog for catalogue, mould for mould, hight for height, etc. We look in vain for change of ph to f, which may be taken as blu ribbon of Am. Sp. and a moderat begining; nor do we find d changed to t at all, as we find abscessed, cracked, and checked, insted of abs-st, crakt and chekt.

—"Even most enlightnd Mexican farmers stil persist in using oxen of one color in the morning and oxen of another color in the afternoon. They don't no why they do this, but they no that it must be right, becaus their forefathers did it."—(*Daily paper*.) That is about the way it is with speling in places not so far as Mexico. We can see their stupidity but ar blind to our own. One wud suppose the inconvenience of hitching up the oxen wud be enuf to condemn it: just so with sp. We keep on sp. so becaus our forefathers did—ther is no reason that wil stand scrutiny.

SPELING PROPER NAMES. — In *Laura Secord, the Heroine of 1812, a Drama, and other Poems*, a volume just from the pres, ritn by a Toronto lady, Mrs. Curzon, the name of the heroine is said to be traceabl bak to "a certn Marquis D'Secor, a Marshal in household of Louis X. of France. . . . On breaking out of Revolutionary War the family divided, the loyalists changing their name to Secord by placing the d at end of name." We hav already noted that Mr. McCulla, of Brampton, drops the useles and sensesles gh from end of his name. Mr. Tomas Bengof (Thomas Bengough) says he has taken the mater of simplifying the sp. of his name "into consideration" like our cautious "lil tyrant" of a (provincial) premier. It is to be wisit that he may reach a favorabl conclusion. If the subject wer lookt up, we hav no dout that considerabl changes in sp. of names has taken place. Those who hav "perfectly awful" names ofn do, and shud, improve them, especially by dropping useles letters. Dr. W. Coburn, Osiawa, Ont., leaves out useles ck ofn found in his name (making it Cockburn). So does Dr. G. H. Coburn, Frederikton, N. B. Dr. McNaughton, Newcasl, Ont., and E. A. Macnachten, Coburg, Ont., ar brothers. Variations in speling names by diferent members of same connection ar comon.

### THAT BAD OLD SPELING.

We no litt about the origin of English speling. We can only say of it as we do of most other monstrositis, it is becaus it is; but if some one had colected the sounds that came from the lips of the gibering lunatics whose tungs wer confused about Babel, strung them together, and cut the string into sections of varius lengths, declaring that each section was the proper speling of words in English, taking them in their order, he wud hav product just about such a system, one just as sensibl and easy and adaptabl to rules, as the one we now hav. F-l-o-u-g-h, piow, t-o-u-g-h, tuf, and so on thru the hole brood of oughs, p-h-t-h-i-s-i-c, tistic, w-h-o-l-e, hol, b-e-n, ben, b-e-e-n, bin, o-n-e, wun and w-o-n, wun, and so on from A to Izzard, thru a thousand and one beastly outrages on senses of hearing and seeing.

From the time a boy first begins to lern his alfabet until he lays down his last book, difthongs, silent leters, and leters that ar wors than silent, lie in wait for him to perplex, disturb, discourag and distract him at evry turn. He may lern evry rule that anybody ever printed in a speling book, and he may make himself master of tle most conceala and indistinct sounds that wer ever supos'd to be hidn in separat leters, but it is of no avail, for evry rule is so undermined by exceptions and evry leter is so prostituted to absurd and imposibl uses that he might about as wel no nothing of either. If he lerns to spel at all he must lern each word separatly, as a pol-parot lerns to repeat it, and from boyhood to old age, when he meets one not in general use, must jump at a dictionary to see if some orthografical crank hasn't invented a peculiarly outrageous way of speling it, a way as diferent as posibl from that in which all other words of similar sounds ar speld, and one containing new welth of silent leters and new riches of leter combinations which ar aparently jerk't in wicth the impresion that when thoroly mixt in the mouth they wil produce some sort of a distinct sound that no singl caracer of man's monition represents. So our language has come to be the very worst as to speling ever ritn and printed. Insted of making speling simpl, plain and easy, it is made as complicated, distracting and difcult as posibl, and the ingenuity which the Anglo-Saxon race has displayd in making it distracting and difcult exceeds its accomplishments in other directions.

The only sensibl, short and easy way to spel a word is by using those leters and those only that stand for sounds which taken together produce it. Posibly, in former ages, when no one but professional scolars atempted to spel, and peopl livd on the reputation of their ancestors, ther was

some excuse in the barbaric derivation of many words for the way they wer and ar speld; but now, when evrybody spels or tries to, when the use of evry needles leter is a waste of time, money and brain power, and when we ar all too busy taking care of ourselves to hug the gosts of our far-away ancestors, we o't to get rid of this antiquated but vicius surplusage.—Manchester, N. H., *Mirror and American*.

— Why hav we o in *scourge* and none in *urge* ?

FRENCH INSTRUCTOR (impatiently)—“ Now then, Miss, I want yu to pronounce r more distinctly. Yu may pronounce some American word in which r is.” Pupil (vindicatively)—“ R-r-r-r-rats !”

VOWELS.—The diferent vowel sounds may be said to be the result of gradual elongation of mouth [and throat] cavity combined with alterations in shape and size of its external orifice product by varying lip-action. The foloing is the order of the five vowels in relation to the length of tube rquired for their production, beginning with the shortest: e, a (pronounst like French é), a, o, u (oo.) It was proved experimentally by Czermak that, in utterance of these five vowels, the nasal part of air passage is shut off from mouth by soft palat. . . . . In delivering these vowels, the mouth acts as a resonator, the inlet of which is at the bak, and outlet at lips, both orifices being alike variabl in length and shape. On proper production of vowels depends distinctnes of articulation and the final, as it is the severest, test of a speaker's training is the perfection of his rendering a, e, i, o, u. [a, a, e, o, u.]—MOREL MACKENZIE in *Hygiene of Vocal Organs*, p. 157.

SPEECH ANALYSIS AND NOTATION.—At recent meeting of U. S. Modern Lang. Assoc'n in Philadelphia a fonetic section was formd (Melvil Bell, president) to encourage and further fonetic study in this cuntry by public and privat instruction, lectures, exchanges and communications of literature connected with it, and correspon-lence. Attention wil be paid both to improving curent methods of teaching languages and to scientific investigation. For the later, a comitee wil select or arange a standard system of sound notation to be adopted by the Assoc'n., and which, we hope, wil meet with general approval. Equip with this standard alfabet, yung scolars wil be set to work to investigate American dialects, especially the interesting fenomena of Speech-mixture in America. Advice from European scolars concerning the delicat question of Sound Notation wil be thankfully accepted. Communications shud be adrest to me.—Prof. G. KARSTEN, Bloomington, Ind., in *Paris Teacher*,