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# The Fonetic Herald

DEVOTED TO ORTHOPI AND ORTHOGRAFI.

1ST YER. PORT HOPE, CANADA, JUN, 1885. N<sup>o</sup> 6.

## A PARALLEL

BETWEEN THE REVISED TRANSLATION OF  
THE BIBLE AND THE REVISION OF  
ORTHOGRAFY IN PROGRES.

The necessity of a revised translation of the Bible being admitted by scholars altho the general public, which seldom rises above the level of politics and gossip hardly yet admits it any more than it does the need of a Revised Orthograpy the work was commenst 22d June 1870 In the preface to the New Testament, we read "Shortly after wards steps wer taken . . . for inviting the co-operation of American scholars, and eventually two Committees wer formed in America for the purpos of acting with the two English Companies.

Our communications with the American Committee hav been of the following nature. We transmitted to them from time to time each several portion of our First Revision and received from them in return their criticisms and suggestions. These we considered with much care and attention.

We then sent over to them the various portions of the Second Revision as they wer completed and received further suggestions which wer closely and carefully considered. Last of all, we forwarded to them the Revised Version in its final form. . . . We gratefully acknowledge their care vigilance and accuracy; and we humbly pray that their labors and our own, thus happily united, may be permitted to bear a blessing to both countries and to all English speaking people thruout the world. The whole time devoted to the work has been ten years and a half."

The N.T. was publisht in May, 1881;

four years after we hav the Old.

The *Week* says: ' Alredy, it is clear that the Revised Version has made way. It is uzed in many schools. It is uzed in most families. Seldom does one of the younger clergy giv a text from the pulpit but he telz us in his sermon the rendering of the Revised Version.

Some of the more advanst clergy use the Revised Version always in pulpit. '

In like manner it having been found that our present orthograpy did violence to etymological and historical truth, embodying much "fanciful and absurd" derivation, and generally had *drifted* in numerous instances, and was *stil drifting* from the simpl and consistent, partly by the growth of the language partly by its change, a revision appeared necessary. It was stil more urgent, as current speling like the 1611 version, contains many verbal errors which often leads to mistakes, while the scholarship of a century bak has thrown a flood of light on much that was obscure. Accordingly the Am. Filologic Association and the Eng. Filologic Society began work, but separately at first. The two bodies embrace thoz most activ in linguistic knowledge and filoscly and so wer the proper authoritativ bodies to undertake the work of revision. Dealing with *words* sounded or written, is their especial province.

The Biblical revisers wer comissioned "to refer, on the part of each Company, when considered desirabl, to Divines Scholars and Literary Men, whether at home or abroad, for their opinions." So, we may assume, did the revising linguists take advantage of such scholarship and Literary Men as wer accesibl. In both cases, the co-laboration of thoz specially lerned has been secured, and that wherever the

language is spoken.

Care is taken to state that "the Revisers have borne in mind that it was their duty not to make a new translation, but to revise one already existing." In like manner, the orthographic work we refer to is not the establishment of a new system of spelling, but the Revision of the present forms, another thing.

In another point the work of the two have been alike, close adherence to what is established unless truth clearly and emphatically required a change: we learn that "It involves no changes of the Hebrew text no older manuscript than the Massoretic having been discovered, and the idiom of the authorised version is most carefully preserved out of regard for the conservative feeling of the church in its attachment to the language of the old version. All errors of translation, however, have been removed; and the Revision it is thought will be pronounced by every competent Bible reader a very great improvement."—[Cable dispatch.] In like manner, the most ultra conservative cannot defend the present orthography against Revised Orthography, and for similar reasons.

In Feb. 1852, the Philological Society of England passed a resolution requesting H. Sweet Esq., to communicate in order to ascertain whether it were practicable to effect a complete agreement with the American Philological Association so that a joint scheme might be put forth under the two chief philological bodies of the English speaking world."

As result, the work of the Biblical Revisers is now finished. Orthographic Revision is but in part accomplished. It took fifteen years to complete the former; the latter may take as long ten years yet; it is already five under way.

Something to compare was reached when the Philological Society of England issued a pamphlet entitled "Partial Corrections of English Spellings approved by the Philological Society." It consists of a list of words. On this side of the Atlantic it had been already found that certain 24 Rules of Spelling could be specified which orthographic etymologic and historic truth dictated should be followed. As astronomic observations made far apart are found to agree in effect; so this list and 24 Rules, by a little adjustment of the former are found

to coincide. Agreement was reached in July 1883 at Middletown Conn., since which there is no definite report.

What these rules are interested will be curious to learn. We shall give them when space permits. Meantime, we may say that the Five Rules are included in them. It follows that the Five Rules are a first instalment of a Rectification or Revision on which there is no discount—we mean it and more.

**HOW TO BEGIN.**—Many are in doubt how to begin the amendment of their spelling. "Jacob Faithful," in *Toronto Truth* says that for his part he does not know how to begin [because it is such a tangled snarl?] For him and others we suggest, as a

**First Step.**—Omit *u* from endings in *our* (and perhaps *o* from *-ous*) and spell words of which *traveler* is the type with a single *l*. There are fifty verbs, (list given by Worcester, p. xxvii, §1) to whose derivatives, between 100 and 200, this will apply. Adopt *plow*, *wagon* and *program*. This first step, except *-us* for *-ous*, is now actually taken by three fourths of the newspapers of this continent, so that in this you are but keeping abreast of the rear rank. We have been assured by one who has made it matter of observation that the proportion is greater than three fourths. These are but changes quietly going on among us, like dropping *k* from *music*, *logick*, etc., by our grandfathers.

**Second Step.**—Adopt *ar*, *huv* and *tho*.

**Third Step.**—Ad *catalog*, *definit*, *giv*, *gard*, *infinet*, *liv*, *thru*, *wicht*.

**Fourth Step.**—Ad *cud*, *wud*, *shud*, *shal*, *wil*, *yu*.

**Fifth Step.**—Adopt the Five Rules.

The foregoing is in shape sufficiently definite either to practise one's self or to give to a clerk, compositor or operator on type writer, with orders to follow.

**ANNUAL MEETING** of U.S.S.R.A. will be held in Sloane Laboratory, Yale College, New Haven, Conn. beginning 9th July at 3 P. M. Important papers are already promised. Reports will be presented from Branch Associations in N. Y., Philadelphia, Chicago and other cities. Action will be proposed to aid the N. Y. Branch to introduce Simplified Spelling in teaching the Freedmen. Report will

be made of progres in England and in Germany. and mezurez looking to a closer co operation with foren societiez wil probably be taken.

## PRÆER OR PRÆER?

*Editor HERALD:* SIR,—I think you hav taken the wrong vowel in such words as *care, fare, there, prayer*, etc. Insted of short a, as in *at*, it should be long a, as in *ale*.

Worcester refers all such words to the key word *fare* in which he marks the *a* with a vertical dash. In explanation he says, p. xiii. §11: "The third sound of *a*, markt with vertical dash, is its *long* sound, qualified by being followed by *r*; as in *care, fare, pare*.

. . . . Ther is obviously a difference between the sound of *a* in these words as pronounst by good speakers and its sound in *pain* and *fate*."

Webster, p. xli. §4. reads: "Some hav considered the *a* in *care* a distinct element; this however is not admitted by Smart, who maintains that it is *a* in *fate*, and owes all its peculiarity to the subsequent *r*. Such also is the statement of most English orthoepists. . .

. . . Thus, in the view here presented, the *initial sound* should always be that of *a* in *fate*, tho the final impression on the ear is that of an open or broad sound in consequence of the opening power of the *r*."

To the same purpos I might quote Smart Chambers, Nuttall, the Cabinet, the Imperial, and Stormonth. Pitman writes *they* and *there, shade* and *share, fate* and *fare, &c.*, with the same vowel.

I think authority favors the vowel in *care, fare, prayer, &c.*, being a modified *by r*, and not 'a.'

Yours for correct pronunciation,  
S. CLARE.

Toronto, May 29th, 1885.

[We agree that *R* following increases the *quantity* or *volume*. If last paragraf in Webster's §4 be red. it wil be seen that the other sound is allowabl; and W. regarded "the difference as unimportant." True, W. says the vowel *a* was chosen in New England in his day; but New Eng. then is all America now. By comparing sounds 3 and 11 on p.17 the reader wil infer that S.R.A. favors a.

Otherwise *care* shud illustrate sound 10. Its opinions ar commonly founded on exhaustiv comparison of aut:orities as wel as sounds. We believ the following statements wil hold: 1. In England the majority choose *a*; what about the rest of Britain? 2. In America the majority choose *a*. 3. For the present it is advisabl in this as wel as in other matters where ther is diversity of practice [*e g.* whether *fast* shal be fast or fast, see p. 17] to leave the choice optional. In *things doubtful, liberty*.—Ed.]

COBURG. — The subject ov Amend-ed Speling was discust at a meeting ov the Science Association ov Victoria University (Methodist,) and a very carefullly preparad paper was red by Mr D. R. McKenzie, set forth with arguments for and agensl Speling Reform. The paper was lisnd tu with much interest, and in the warm discussion which followed all wer in favor ov the reform ce-sept two, and felt that it was one ov the great questions ov the day, and one ov the most needed reforms. The students felt that the way in which the English child iz handicapt in lerning tu spel, in comparison with the German child, iz a most serius thing when the crush ov studiz iz so great —P. C. Andrews, in *Phonetic Journal*.

"REFORMING OUR ENGLISH."—This iz the title ov an able artiel in the *Bibliotheca Sacra* for Oct. last, by Gen. J. D. Cox, ov Cincinnati, Ohio. I hoz interested shud get it. He holds that our langwej haz lost meni good expresiv words which shud be restored; while others becoming obsolete shud be kept. Besides words, other beutiz ar disaparing. He mantains that certan changes shud be made in our pronouciation in the way ov both improvement and restoration and that these amendments in the *spoken langwej* shud larjly pre-cede simplification ov its *printed form*. He iz not so ardent for radical change in the latr az he was formerly.

PROF. T. W. HUNT, A. M., of the College of New Jersey, Princeton, N. J., contributes an able article on "How to Reform Our Speling." to the *North American Review* for April.

## THE BØI AND THE NUTS. ——— A FGBL.

A bøi wuns had a jar hwich woz nerli ful ov nuts; so he went and put in hiz hand tu tak sum out. He tuk up az meni nuts az hiz hand cud holl; but he cud not pul them out for the jor had a narø nek.

"Let go haf the nuts, mī bøi," sed a man hɪ stud ner. "and then trī."

The bøi did so, and then found he cud pul out hiz hand with ez.

~~Do~~ DU NOT GRASP AT TU MUCH, ØR YU MØ LUZ ØL.

[During a proløngl discushun on the Amendment ov Speling in a Toronto paper, in 1883, a cørespondent, over the signatur "Only an Old Føgey," gav counsel: "If speling refermrz wer content tu em at les, the mit accomplish mor." The slo progres ov a reformd speling in the past haz ben oing tu the public being naturali tenashus ov cur rent fernz, on the wun hand, and, on the uthar, tu the fact that its advocats: 1. Began at the røng end, trīing tu enter the larj end ov the wej furst; 2. The had bad alfabetz — alfabetz not in harmoni with the existing Roman letrz, nør with non lingwistic and fonolojicål truth; 3. The went tu far.]

KEY: a a e e i i ø o o u u u  
az in ort at ale ell eel l nor not no up put do

PETERBORO.—Mr. J. H. Long, B. A., LL. B., recently red a paper on Speling Reform before the Teachers' Institute, Co. Peterboro. Its arguments ar drawn chiefly from the history and structure of the language, explaining how we hav an alfabet so defectiv. It has been publisht in iul in the Toronto *Educational Weekly*, and so is accessible to our readers. Comparing Spanish or thograpy (rectified in the last century) with ours, he says: "The dark-eyed Spanish lad, as with his pen he fashions the stately forms of old Castile, laughs to scorn the idea of a speling book.—The English boy, on the contrary, looks forward with quaking hart to the speling ordeal."

RISE OF ETYMOLOGY.—Hon. J. D. Cox sez: "It iz almost wholly within our own day that real progres haz been made in the study ov the origin and growth ov English. It may be sed that

until Dr. Mahn's revision ov Webster, in the last edition ov that work, ther was not a respectabl etymological dictionary ov the English langwej. The older editions ov Webster, and all editions ov Johnson, Richardson, and the rest abound in the most fanciful and absurd derivation ov words.—*Bibliotheca Sacra*, Oct. '84, p. 711.

H.—Proctor, the astronomer, contributes an interesting article on the "Mis-used H of England" to the *Atlantic Monthly* for May.

N. Y. CITY.—A Branch S. R. A. was recently formd in N. Y. Sp. Ref. Leags ar likely to be formed both there and in Chicago. The latter ar composed of those pl-dged to uze a specified minimum of amendment on all reasonable occasions.

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