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# The Herald.

DEVOTED TO PRONUNCIATION AND AMENDED SPELLING.

VOL. II, 29. TORONTO, CANADA, January, 1904. N<sup>o</sup>. 79.

## OPINIONS OF EMINENT MEN.

(Continued from pages 87, 101, 107, 111, 115.)

No one who has studied even superficially the English language will stand up for present orthography as a thing creditable in itself. He may accept it as a burden of which he sees no present way of getting rid; but that is something altogether different from taking pride in it as an object worthy of regard. There is certainly nothing more contemptible than our present spelling, unless it be the reasons usually given for clinging to it.—PROF. T. R. LOUNSBURY, in vol. iii, p. 265, of *Studies in Chaucer*.

A curious illustration of American books impinging on the old land is seen in English discussions of and protests against American spelling, or, as we say, American reforms in spelling. So many books are now printed on this side and the supply for Britain struck off from the same plates, for British publishers simply to put covers and imprint on, that American spelling invades the land. Recent spicy correspondence in the London *Times* ended by the British publisher held guilty of this practice saying he thought it improbable that 70 millions of English-speaking people in America were to be ruled by 37 millions in Britain very long, even as to language. He is quite right, fully justified by Horace, who told his generation that custom determined the correct in language. The *Century* dictionary made some valuable changes; one still newer goes farther. It spells *sulfur* s-u-l-f-u-r. Who gets rid of a *ph* performs a service to the English-speaking race. Sulfur let it be, dear old motherland to the contrary notwithstanding. Most dear old mothers have occasion to stand agast with uplifted hands at their daughters, but the world must move on in spite of old ladies' protestations.—ANDREW CARNEGIE in *Triumphant Democracy* (1898, p. 208).

## NEWS-NOTES AND COMMENTS.

—Do *port* and *thought* rhyme? On this, E. Bach (*Saturday Review*, 7 Nov., p. 579) quotes a Mrs Wood who (anent the rhymes nursed first | palm arm | morn dawn) says they "fall under the ban of critical rules" adding "a forener would suppose l in palm and r in arm slightly pronounced, but both are equally silent, merely serving to

broaden the vowel before. In standard modern English r before a consonant is never pronounced and to pretend that it is is a useless fiction."

—The literary world's verdict is that a dropt r still lies "under the ban of critical rules" in rhyme, the optional in speech. No first-class poet drops r any more than h. Both are tabooed by acknowledged models. Writers of doggerel still afflict us with rhymes like this:

O Niagara, Niagara,

You're a stagerer, a stagerer!

and, 25 years ago, when Cetewayo and Lobengula were native chiefs in South Africa, we endured:

Oh, King Lobengula

Is a jolly old ruler!

And a jolly old ruler is he.

—In distributing literature an important consideration is postage. Four years ago, after repeated refusals, THE HERALD was granted postal rates common to quarterlies, namely, a cent a pound. This rate carries to U. S., British Isles, New Zealand and some other colonies, and is likely, in time, to be made general throughout the empire.

—To the U. S. this postal rate has long prevailed. Within a few months only has it been extended to British Isles, etc. Moral: Canada is the best distributing center (for this and other reasons) in the English-speaking world.

—But a limited number of sample copies, however, can be sent so cheaply. Market copies must be prepaid a half cent per ounce. Those who like to prepay subscriptions for persons specified can do so at a liberal rate in larger numbers. Such prepayment is essential to qualify under postal rates. It remains for anyone overflowing with zeal to circulate THE HERALD in greater profusion, not cry out for others to do so. Here is a good opportunity for your dollars. The number of dollars will be a measure of your zeal.

—Prof. Lounsbury's opinion in the column preceding is sufficiently plain and decided. Filologists the world over express opinions of like tenor. Not one with a reputation to lose is opposed to any reasonable proposal for amending our spelling.

—Horace's opinion that custom rules in language is given in column preceding. Custom has parallel power in morals. A recent writer, as quoted below, has shown that this fact is fundamental, "the very heart of Christian theology." Readers are asked to note the market similarity, in this respect, as herein illustrated, between ethical and linguistic questions.

—[Greek] *dikē*, the fundamental word from which we must start, originally signified custom usage, way. Hence arose its meaning of right [or justice] considered as established usage. . . . . By a farther suggestion it denotes the process of law or lawsuit, by which legal rights are determined, and then the result of the lawsuit in the form of punishment or satisfaction. . . . *Dikaios* means 'conformity to right,' and carries with it implicitly a reference to a standard. This

standard is, in the first instance, social usage and expectation, then this usage as embodied in law, and finally the abstract and ideal rule of right.—JAMES DRUMMOND, LL. D., principal of Manchester College, Oxford, in *The Hibbert Journal* (Oct., 1902, p. 85) Socrates, Lysias and Plato ar quoted in confirmation.

—A solem mesAj tOO kindergartnerz: dEr frendz, wen wil yOO foofil thE bey-OOtifool drEm ov thE grAt Froebel? yOO hav bEn shOn thE wA. wen wil yOO sEs tOO instil nOn forl-estive intoO thE riten spEtsh ov thE litl tshild? vorz in tsharitev, Henry Woollen, St. Johns, Ipswich, England.

—A Supplement to *THE HERALD* appears with this issue. It is a pamphlet of 16 small pages ritt and speld by Dr Welch according to his system. Anyone seeing this notice and failing to get the supplement shud aplly for it.

—Our Type-Fund has been increast by \$5 from Mr L. Lyon, Ashtabula, O. Total, \$19.75.

—Red-Indian place-names in Ontario ar to be overhauld. Mr David Boyle, provincial museum, Toronto, asks the public to assist by giving information to form a list of Indian names by which tonografie features have been or ar known. Some obsolete names ar on record but ar scaterd over a wide field of literature; others hav never appeard in print. Giv (1) presnt name of river, bay, lake, cape, island or hill; (2) Indian name, and its meaning; (3) If the presnt name is Indian, what it means; (4) the old form, if presnt one is corrupt. We wish that evry self-governing state in both Americas wud do so. A puzzling clas of words cud then hav their speling settld.

—Investigations in fonograf fenomena have been made by Prof. McKendrick of Glasgow. Fonograf tracings ar much amplified by machine methods which giv a record on a strip of paper. Prof. McK. has devised a way wherby intensity or loudnes of tone from a fonograf may be augmented. Some of his results appear in the *Scientific American* supplement for 18th July last.

—*La Lumo* (The Light) is the only organ of the new international language, Esperanto, in the English-speaking world. It is publishd monthly at 79 St Christopher st., Montreal, Canada, at 50 cents a year to Britan. U. S. and Canada; 3 francs to other countries. (Foren stamps ar taken). It contains 16 pages 4to. Its editer, Mr A. Saint-Martin, declines to discuss the possibility of an international tung because its possibility is not theoretic but practically demonstrated evry day by uzers. In his family, wife, husband and children speak nothing else among themselv.

—Another Esperantist jurnal appeard in London since the above was in type. It is edited by H. B. Mudie, 41 Outer Temple.

—The author of *Volapük* made the mistake of employing sounds not cosmopolitan, an objection hardly tru of Esperanto, as German ch (as in ich, ach) is the only sound unherd in non-dialectic English.

—The alphabet of Esperanto is interesting as giving what ar esteemd cosmopolitan values to the Roman letters (except that c for ts is not Roman nor even Italian): a, e, i, o, u, ar sounded as in the strest vowels in father, make, marine, note, bull; c is as ts in wits, g as in gun, j as y in voke; b, d, f, h, k, l, m, n, p, r, s, t, v, z, as in English; but circumflex c, g, h, j, s, respectively as ch in church, g in gem, ch in (German) ach, s in pleasure, sh in show. Omission of capitals in Esperanto is advocated now.

—The basis *we* proceed on (consonants as in English, vowels as in Italian or German) does not corespond thruout with the use of consonants in Esperanto. We acord with the gec-

grafic societies, filologic societies and the word-forms in romanized Jaj anese.

—We hav promist to insert nothing for or against Esperanto unless we ar positiv the riter knows what he is talking about. Mr Saint-Martin wishes this becaus convinc d that many a good caus is hopelesly injured by dablers who 'i' impresions altogether rong. Wer the same rule aplied in amendment of speling, it wud be beter. Hitherto, easy good nature has permitted publication of schemes utterly wild and impracticabl against which both comon sense and ingrained prejudice rebel. Toard a solution of the problems of New Speling such schemes oft contribute les than nothing.

—A flaming-red poster recently informd good peopl at Hetton, Eng., that Rev. T. G. Selby wrd lecture on "The Religion ov Posterity" in the Wesleyan church there as wel as preach, and that ther wud be a "silver colecshon (at each servis and meeting) on behaaf ov renovashon fund." Peopl there cannot plead ignorance as to either precepts or practis of beter speling.

—Two questions on the above: (1) Shud t not be retaind in 'colecshon' as wel as in 'Cristmas'? (2) Shud 'behaaf' hav dubld 'a' or not? In that district Italian a (a) is used, tho not found in normal speech, either British or American.

—A Calendar can be uzed to broadcast our themes. One hangs in *THE HERALD* office under a medalion of Virchow. On it is a cabinet portrait 3 by 4 inches, with this legend under:

WILLIAM T. HARRIS

United States Commissioner of Education  
good Spelling Reformer.

To get a good portrait of Harris, educator and filosofer, send costs (10 cents, sav), while yet in season and before they ar gon, to Mr E. B. Thornton, Addison, N. Y., who fathers the design.

—In a corner of the calendar mentioned above the twelv words (of the NEA) appear thus:

A *prolog* short, a theme profound!

My *program* this: to spell by sound.

This *pedagog* delights to see

All *demagogs* bereft u-e.

His choice, *thruout* this *decalog*,

Appears; no need to *catalog*.

*The* job more *thoro* we would make,

A *thorofare* we first must break.

My friends, *altho* I bid adieu,

I 'll call again, I 'm not yet *thru*.

#### CORRESPONDENCE.

Waldhambach AGAIN (SEE P. 113).

(Transl.) Before 1541, W. was calld *Hagenbach*; til 1891, *Hambach*. Wherfore, in the vilage dialect, the first *a* is long, even today—Hāmbach (strangers shorten it thru ignorance). 'Wald-am-bach' is out of the question. As the place-name Hambach occurs very often (some six times in the empire, not counting Hagenbachs—four ours from here, near Sargemünd is another), ther was no end of confusion, til the old distinctiv name was restored, at my instance. In the Pfalts, near Annweiler, is another Waldhambach. Hām = Hagen = Hain (Hainbache also is found) occurs too in *hambuche*, *hagenbuch*, *hainbuche* [horn-beam, yoke-elm].

Waldhambach, Elsass.

J. SPIESER.

CATCH THEM YUNG.

Speling reform is of greatest moment, not to adults, whose scooldays ar over, but to yungsters entering their educational career. It is unlikely that general speling reform wil come without its systematic introduction into public elementary scools. Direct our efforts to secure immediat adoption of a simpl fonetic system of teaching to read. It is a well-establishit fact that, begining with the fonetic method, both New Speling and the Old ar more quikly and thoroily masterd than the old alone by ordinary methods. They who hav finisht "cannot be bothered" to lern another system; but, once bro't to appreciate the real and immense value of fonetics to elementary education, they wil undoutedly tolerate and encorage their adoption for that purpos. In course of two decades of fonetic tuition, a universal reform of speling wud naturally be bro't about—Correspondent of Newcastle (Eng.) Weekly Chroniel.

FROM SPELING-BOOK TO BANKRUPTCY.

When Thomas Brown atended scool, he wanted to study book-keeping. But the teacher told him he must spend the time on his speling lesons; for book-keeping wud do him no good unless he cud spel wel.

So he quit scool and went to help in his uncle's grocery. In a few years he inherited the establishment. The store was wel patronized and apeard to prosper. He had to depend entirely on a hired acountant, who silently robd him and "doctord up" the books. Brown did not no what was rong. Evry year he became more deeply involvd.

At length, worn out and discouraged, he died of fever. The book-keeper fled. The estate sold for many thousand dollars les than liabilities. The unfortunat family was left in want.

Letterville, N.Y.

Hu Lo.

WIL IT EVER COME?

Wil Speling Reform ever come? yu ask. What's to stop it? Nothing shud stop yur reforming speling. It is the same with evry inteligent adult. If yu, chuse to spel 'hav' without e, no power wud prevent yu dropping the needles e. So, with giv, liv, leav, reliev, conceiv, and hosts of other words whose sound is unaffected by omiting silent e. Sheding idle leters is historic and natural. In old books yu find e

atacht to many words unadornd (?) with it now. Why shud we rite useles leters any more than our forefathers? We claim having made great progres since their day. So we hav—progres in this direction can be extended. Extend this reform to our own speling—something we ar capabl of and free to perform—then we can anser Wil it ever come? by saying, Yes; it has come to me. It comes by evry individual determining in his own mind to get rid of leters not needed for any useful purpos and which hinder yung peopl lerning to read and spel. They who hav past youth's dificulties o't to try to create an atmosfere so that it may be easier for yung peopl to spel in more rational way than we ar compeld to now. We hav atained greater liberty, and may and shud spel as becomes free men and women. May we make freedom's path broader yet by a speling simpler and more consistent.

H. DRUMMOND.

LITERATURE

LIFE AND LABORS OF SIR ISAAC PITMAN  
Told and Illustrated by Benn Pitman. Cloth, 201 pages 8vo; Phonographic Institute, Cincinnati, Ohio. Postpaid, \$1.

Reed's *Life of Pitman* was ritn in 1887, ten years before Pitman's deth. This one by his brother more than supplies the want of a new edition of Reed's. Sir Isaac's life is told in twenty-five slices or chapters, each dealing with a separat aspect of him or his career; is illustrated by the author, who has won deserved fame as a remarkable artist; a biography delightful, spirited, instructiv and truthful, not fild with flattery, eulogy, or apotheosis. Our readers wil be especialy interested in chapters 19 to 23, pages 143 to 190, dealing with Dr A. J. Ellis, Alfabetic Reform, Unsetld Points in Pronunciation, Bell's Visibl Speech. Much said therein deservs reproduction in our colums: but get the book yurself, not hav mere tastes and sips thru us. Its binding is neat, strong, elegant.

STEPS OF PROGRESS in the Art of Writing  
by D. Kimball. 64 pages 24mo, paper, 10 cents.  
D. Kimball, 113 Adams st., Chicago, Ill.

The first dozen pages giv a history of alfabetic symbols (with facsimiles) from prehistoric ages, told in lucid style. Over 50 pages is a plea for Lindsley's Takigra-  
fy, a fonetic shorthand easily red.

For God so lavd ðe werld ðat hi gev hiz ónli-begotn sán ðat husoever beliv-eth in him shud not perish bat hav ever-lasting laif.—Jon iii,16.

## BETWEEN DECADES.

Between 1883 and 1893 much hapnd in the filologic world having special bearing on our problems. In 1884 (with preface dated Nov., 1883) apeard the first part of NEDict'y, and twenty years of stedy and consistent toil has publisht ful haf of it. But the first and evry succeeding part has a "Key to Pronunciation" prefixt, in itself the most admirabl analysis of normal (receivd or standard) aspects of our language that has ever apeard. This analysis not only has worn wel for twenty years, but, in our opinion, outdistances evry competitor. Of this, more soon.

Our readers wil remember that in 1886 we anounced the erly appearance of *The Phonetic Titsher*, publisht in Paris and edited by Prof Paul Passy. From 1888 this became a polyglot calld *Le Maitre Phonétique*, representing all the principal languages, many others, and some dialects, in one alfabetic symbolism. This has made comparativ filology more of a sience than ever before, as comparisons ar now made from original observations the world over by actual recorders, machine or personal. These observations, like those of astronomers, ar having an efect in eliminating eror and crystalizing truth.

The last part of Ellis' great work (EE Pron.) apeard in 1889, giving systematic exposition of all dialects in Britan from Lands End to John o' Groats and even beyond, for it includes those in the Orkney and Shetland Iles, and Australia.

Beside these remarkabl pieces of work by Murray, Passy and Ellis, the filologic societies on both sides of the Atlantic publisht papers containing important points of advance. The U. S. Navy publisht a method of transliterating foren geografic names. The Eng. S.R.A. publisht nothing after 1883, tho it showd signs of life until 1887; the American one publisht (1884 to 1892) several bulletins and six numbers of *Spelling* at irregular intervals. Larison's *Jurnal* kept up a stedy fire evry month begining Jan., 1884. Fernald's *Our Language* apeard monthly for three years begining April, 1891. Last but not least, Sir Isaac Pitman kept up a vigoros and incessant popular propagandism.

## A RETROSPECT: ONE DECADE.

In 1893 Prof. F.A. March rote a report on Speling Reform for the Bureau of Education at Washington (*Circular of Information*, n'r 8). In it (p. 24) is a specimen of New Speling from which is made this extract, corecting five manifest misprints:

"Dhi haiest wurdz ev dhi niu scolarz ar 'pregres' and 'pauer.' Niu trüth dhē wēnt,

and niu früt everi dē in dhi imprüvment ev dhi stät ev man. Cultyur türnz frēm ficshun tu fact, frēm pōetri tu saiens. Linggwistic studi..... haz türnd frēm driming över öld luv störiz tu dhi studi ev nēshunz and ev man az recörded in langgwej. Dhi filelojist raivalz dhi jiel-ojist in riding dhi recerdz ev dhi rēs in dhi fesilz ev lauggwej. Hī iz a histōrian ev dhi taimz befōr histori. Hī givz us dhi pedigrī ev nēshunz hūz nēm and plēs nō modern man cud ges."

Now compare this with the 1883 specimen on our p. 118: the sign *i* apears in both, a sign so much and long uzed for *i*-difthong (as in *eye*, *aye*, *I*) as to caus confusion. For this reason, aparently, the *Standard* dictionary, the first haf of which apeard too in 1893, uzed *i* insted of *i*. To ad more markt leters shud be avoided. A beter way is: drop the macron of *i* on the body (*i*), a restoration to what was uzed before puting the dot on came in.

In like maner, the sign *ē*, much uzed for *e* in *me*, causes confusion if uzed for *e* in *they*. In the selection on our p. 118 *a* is uzed insted of *ē*. Rather than discard *a* for *ē*, let us improve *a*. Bring the macron either before or after *e*. Then we hav *æ* conjoind (for which *æ* is a temporary substitute). Insted of improving *a*, March went to *ē*, and the *Standard* in the same year uzed *ê*, not *ē*. Now *ê* is even worse than *ē*. One reason is that *ê* has a cosmopolitan use in French for prolongd *e* as in our word *met*. The regular French sign for *a* is *é* (as in *coupé*, *café*). This misuse of *ê* by the *Standard* is something March (who has a reputation to lose) shud not endorse. To put himself right, March in 1893 came out with *æ* alongside *ê*. Now *æ* and *é* ar justifiabl, *ê* is not. Historically, *æ* and *é* ar the same. In script, before the advent of printing, *é* regularly apeard as *ê*, with *æ* as a later development of *é*.

Again, *a* has its diferential from *e* at its botm. It shud be atop for legibility, or in Javal's line of vision. If, then, *æ* or *é* hav its mark incorporated, we hav an much improved, which may be acceptabl, and which avoids more markt leters.

This has the spirit of the extract, p. 118:

"Let us do the practical thing. Take this alfabet as a provisional basis and proceed to make the best alfabet we can by improving these leters or selecting beter ones."

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