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The Herald.

DEVOTED TO PRONUNCIATION AND AMENDED SPELLING.

5th YEAR. TORONTO, CANADA, December, 1889. N^R. 50.

THE ALFABET.*—The Egyptian takes the hed of his holy bul Apis to represent its first sound A. In his dialect he calls the A Apis. In another, which we follo, it is calld Alef. The booth or hous in which he livs givs name to the secnd leter *Beth*. These two words *alef*, *beth*, ar the origin of *alfabeta*—*alfabet*, and signify ox-hous. 2000 years or les before Christ, a colony from Egypt took their alfabet and worldly goods, and went filibustering, setling on the north part of hed of Mediteranean. They calld the cuntry Phenicia, and themselvs Phenicians. They occupied territory les than Connecticut, skirited on the bak by Lebanon, in front the midland sea, inviting to comerce, navigation and colonization. They wer a colonization society, stealing slaves and seling them. They went to England after tin, which they calld Tin Island. They carid letters to Greece a few years before Moses. The Grecians at first tho't to take the hole alfabet, but changed their mind. The sounds of the Phenician language wer diferent from those of Greek. The Greek, being reasonable, acording to our way of thinking, struck out all letters he did not want, aded thoshe did want, and made it fit his language—the very thing we propose for our alfabet. The Romans took the Greek alfabet—then 350 years old—and modified it to suit their language. France, a colony of Rome, receivd her alfabet from the mother cuntry, and carid it to Britan. The Goths, a hive of barbarians that swarmd all over north of Europ, when they conqerd Rome, and destroyd her works of art and literature, and bro't in the darknes of 1000 years, had the grace to steal the Roman alfabet and cary it home and cultivate it. The Saxons, a German tribe of Gothic stok, carid letters to England. The Saxon and Norman language and literature wer thus in England side by side contending for supremacy. The Norman-French carid their alfabet. The Saxon alfabet had to giv way but the Saxon language became predominant. English grew out of the union of French and Saxon mainly. It has now admixtures from many languages.—J. D. PULSIFER at *Maine Teachers' Convention*.

*REVISED SPELLING:—OMIT useles letters CHANGE *d* to *t*, *ph* to *f*, *gh* to *f*, *sch* to *tsk*, if sounded so—rules justified by Revision of speling (in progres)

EMIGRATION.—The results of emigration and imigration ar curius and important. By emigration is here specially ment separation of a considerabl body of inhabitants of a cuntry, from the main mas, without incorporating itself with another nation. Thus the Eng. in America hav not mixt with nativs, and the Nors in Iceland had no nativs to mix with. In this case ther is a kindof arest of development, the language of the emigrants remains for a long time in the stage in which it was when emigration took place, and alters more sloyly than mother-tung, and in a diferent direction. Practically American speech is arcaic with respect to that of British English, and while the Icelandic scarcely difers from Old Nors, the later has since colonization of Iceland, split up on the main land into two distinct literary tungs, the Danish and Swedish. Nay, even Irish English exhibits in many points peculiaritis of pronunciation of 17th cent.—ELLIS in *E. E. Pron.*, Chap. I.

TEACHING SPELLING.—How Speling can be taut at all in elementary scools is a constant wonder. Ther is not a singl rule which the teacher can lay down which has not almost as many exceptions as exampls. Whether the pupil has to uter ritn words, or to rite uterd ones, in either case he has so many posibilitis before him, that it can be by mere chance only if he hits on the correct anser; and it is thru such geswork, which cannot be dignified with the name of disiplin at all, that he makes his entrance into the world of letters and sience where evrything o't to be order acording to system and intelgence. I am not speaking too strongly in saying that our want of systematic orthografy has reduced the advantage of alfabetic riting to a minimum, and made correct speling virtually imposibl. When primary education is becoming a great question, this question of orthografy must asume higher importance than ever. When it is important to educate the mind it is cruel to force it first to lern the dictionary thru to no how to spel each word separatly. When the mind is being introduced into a relm of exactitude, order, and principl, the spectacl of pure caos in language cannot be edifying, but rather demoralizing.—MARTINEAU in *Trans. Phil. Soc.*, 1867.

NOTES ON PRONUNCIATION.

GRAY'S ELEGY (*continued*).

Now fades the glimring landscape on the sight.

Now is nau—at any rate, that appears to represent prety acuratly the receivd pronounciation.

In like maner, the difthong in *sight* is ai, sait—tho suit and sæit ar preferd in certn quarters.

Glimring is glim'ər iŋ.

The receivd vowel in *fades* and *landscape* is e. We object to fe'ɪdz, feɪdz, and more to feɪdz as good pronounciation. We agree with M^r Jones who complaind recently (in *Jur. Amer. Orthoepey* for Dec.) that "The 'atempt to force on the public this style 'of pronounciation; more than any-'thing els has tended to retard the move-'ment in England." Reference shud be made to an artiel by the late M^r Evans in this issue.

Landscape is land'scap. In hurid, or colloquial, speech, the d is ofn oमित.

DIFERENTIATION.

We hold it beter to get improved forms by diferentiating leters now in use; that is, making changes in their faces, rather than ading diacritic marks. New leters alreɔy aded to our alfabet wer got so, as J, U, W. Tru, discrimination of sounds has been made by marking old leters, and these, tho trublsome and otherwise objectionabl (see last issue), hav become establisht in an Orthografy, notably French. Taking all alfabets together, diferentia'n of face has been adopted far more generally. Taylor in his great work on *The Alfabet* says:—

"It is also instructiv to note the maner "in which the Mongols obtaind the large "number of additional consonants which "they required. As in the Armenian, "Parsi, Greek and other alfabets, this was "in no case efected by invention of new "symbols, but by diferentiation of the old ". In this way, from 17 or 18 Syriac "characters which wer taken over, between "30 and 40 Mongolian characters wer dev-"elopt which wer derived from Buddnist "sources."—Vol. I., page 309.

A note givs ilustrations. Again:—

"The Ethiopic leters ar more numerus "than those of the north Semitic alfabet, "additional characters having been obtaind "by diferentiation from the primitiv stok. "This proces began at a very erly period "and was carid on during many centuris."—*Ibid.*, page 355.

KEY: a a a e E i e o u u ū
as in art at ale ell eel ill nor no up put ooze

trial corner.]

DE PRØDIGAL SUN.

A sertn man had tū suns: and the yunger ev them sed tu his father, father, giv ME the porshen ev thai substans that fel-ETH tu ME. And HE divaid'ed untu them his living. And not meni das after, the yunger sun gatherd el tuge'ther, and tuk his jurni intu a far cuntri; and thar HE wasted his substans with raietes living. And hwen HE had spent el, ther aroz' a maiti famin in that cuntri; and HE began' tu BE in went. And HE went and jøind himself' tu wun ev the sitizens ev that cuntri; and HE sent him intu his felds tu fED swain. And HE wud fan hav BEN fild with the husks that the swain did et: and no man gav untu him. But hwen HE cam tu himself' HE sed, hau meni haird servents ev mai father hav bred enuf' and tu spar, and ai perish HER with hunger! ai wil araiZ' and go tu mai father, and wil se untu him, father, ai hav sind agenst' hevN, and in thai sait: ai am no mor wurthi tu BE cøld thai sun; mak ME az wun ev thai haird servents. And HE aroz' and cam tu his father. And hwail HE weZ yet afar' ef, his father sE him, and weZ muvd with cømpash'n and ran, and fel on his nek, and kist him.

[In last issue, we gave the foregoing in distinct *Orthoepey*. In this we giv it in a semi-fonetic form, suitabl for teaching to read. The child is to be taut that (1) most words hav accent on first sylabl and that he is to accent the first sylabl unles markt otherwise; (2) the ending *-tion* or *-sion* in the old speling is always preced- ed imediatly by accent. Folloing these rules, we hav a page with but few accent marks, yet the reader can always tel where to place accent. Inflectional s is not changed. Thruout, ə is changed to e.]

DIFTHONGIZED VOWELS,
OR "VANISHING SOUNDS."

(By W. R. Evans in Pitman's *Journal*.)

In pronouncing long accented final syl- abls. when ther is no folloing unem- fatic sylabl either in the same or another word, the speaker ofn experiences a tend- ency to extend the vowel quantity in order to alow the voice to relax after the initial stres on the vowel, thus producing some- thing like what the old Greek gramarians regarded as the union of the acute and the grave tone in the circumflex. This relax- ation of tone is apt to be accompanid by a coincident relaxation of the position of the organs required for the vowel sound of the sylabl. With rustic speakers, this dubl relaxation of organic position and tone is ofn made to and on a short obscure vow-

el, like *e* in *riven* (say ^a), and thus *bat*, *bot*, *bet*, *büt* (*bate*, *boat*, *beat*, *boot*) ar pronounced "bæ^t, bo^t, bē^t, bū^t." With more refined, tho stil not correct speakers, the relaxation after *a* and *o* is ofn made to and on the respectiv nearly-related close vowels *i* and *u*, as in "bæ^t, bo^t;" while the les frequent relaxation after *e* and *ū* is to the position of the related coalescents *y* and *w*, as in "bē^t," and in "bū^t." Such pronunciations of terminal emfatic long syllabls ar colloquial comon in some, tho not in all localitis; and in London the vulgar ofn atach a somewhat similar excrecence to *a* and *o*; saying "mar, ler;" for "ma, le:." The riter must himself plead guilty to occasional extension of *a* and *o*, and even of *e* and *ū*, in frases like "Ðat wont pæⁱ; Qi jal go^o; Let mē se^y; Ðat wil dū^w;" but he is not conscious of ever having said "A takspæⁱær; A churchgo^oær; An ovse^yær; An evil-dū^wær;" and to him "cæ^pær, cæ^s, cæ^tic" (for *caper*, *caes*, *cætic*) or "po^lær, po^et, po^etic" (for *polar*, *poet*, *poetic*), apear intolerabl solecisms. These "vanishing sounds" ar, indeed, so esentially accidental and transitory, that in least studid speech they "vanish" altogether when the voice has a folloing unemfatic syllabl on which to relax itself; and almost evryone wud pronounce with pure long vowels, "Tu pæ a bil; Tu go aley; Tu se a sait; Tu dū an act." It seems, therefore, preposterus, not only to take the normal orthografy of *pæ*, *go*, *se*, *dū*, from exceptional, accidental, and corrupt pronunciations, but to intrude exaggerated difthongal representa'n into forms like "negøushieishøn," [for *negø^ofiaⁱj'n*, *negotiation*] in which it is offensiv and indefensibl. Even in words like *obey* and *bestow*, in which the colloquial difthongal sounds may be occasionally herd when the words ar pronounced emfaticaly at end of sentences, these sounds commence respectivly with *a* and *o*, not with *e* and *ø*. The symbol "ou" wud, from old asociation, be highly mis-sugestiv for *o*, as in "a rouig bout, a loud ev outs, a couchman, a poucher." etc.

EITHER AND NEITHER.—*Height* and *sleight* ar the only words in which *ei* has the difthongal sound; [and if *height* wer spelt *hight*, as it shud be, *sleight* alone remains] which, however, is begining to be extensively herd in *either* and *neither*.—Whatev ef actual foundation this last may hav in nativ usage of any part of English-speaking peopl, it has spred in recent times far beyond that foundation, by a kind of reasonles and sensles infection, which can only be condemd and o't to be stoutly oposed and put down. I hav no

quarel with those to whom ai'ðær and nai'ðær ar a genuin part of their dialect, who herd the pronunciation in childhood and grew up to use it unconsciously; but that vastly larger clas who originaly said e'ðær and ñe'ðær, and hav since gon about deliberately to change it, o't to realize with shame the folly of which they hav been guilty, and to reform.—WHITNEY, in part viii., *O. & L. Studies*.

THINK.—The greater derth of tho't, the greater swarm of opinions. Ther is coming decided conviction that no one has right to opinion who has not studid the subject. Offhand decisions of unstudid questions receiv very litl consideration nowadays in the siences. He wud be a rare man indeed who cud setl questions. without previus study; while small men who dispose of filosofy and filosofers in one afternoon ar legion. Meanwhile irrelevance, misunderstanding, superficiality ar so apparent that the student is unavoidably reminded of our first parents who wer naked and wer not ashamed.—PROF. BOWNE in preface to *Philosofy of Theism*,

RETROSPECT, 1885 to 1889.

Five years ago we issued a prospectus of an 8-page monthly. Since then a sheet of haf that size has been kept going. Editions hav varied from 500 to 2000—in all 30,000 sheets hav been issued and distributed judiciously, mostly in U. S. and Canada. Thousands who had never herd of Amended Speling before now no that it has principls and a literature of its own. Of those interested few wil take trubl or expens of keeping abreast of progres in this literature and development of these principls. A small serial publica'n brings a noledg and record of progres to them. Besides, its principls ar capabl of redy illustration in print. Indeed, isolated workers hav, in a jurnal, a means of comparing notes and making progres. The growth of medical sience has been rapid since the advent of medical jurnalism. A like progres is found in other fields. We believ jurnalism of paramount importance. Until workers suport a printed mouth-piece, progres wil be slo, aud the light of Amended Speling flikering and uncertn.

A STOP!

With this issue we lay down the editorial pen and suspend publication. It can be resumed when 500 subscribers ar got at 25 cents each (which wud net 20 cents each, or \$100 a year, allowing for postage and other costs of collection) provided also that ther was a guarantee that this 500 wud be dubld within five years—let 20 names guarantee a list of 25 each to be dubld in five years, and it is done.

SLANG.—Slang is only a form of dialect.—*Ellis*.

ORTHOGRAPHY.—The right spelling of a word may be said to be that which agrees best with its pronunciation, its etymology, and with the analogy of the particular class of words to which it belongs.—*Philologic Museum*, i, 647.

CHINESE.—Rev. Mr. Beach, a missionary, has succeeded in an ingenious experiment to represent spoken Chinese by clear and simple phonetic symbols. An educated foreigner can learn the system in two to five hours, a bright Chinaman in ten lessons.—*Pitman's Journal*.

GOING TOO FAR.—The Phonetic party defeat their own object by demanding too much. Their treatment of Eng. is so rough that they have found no general favor. It would be sufficient to change words in which correct pron. is manifestly different from spelling, but they would go farther than this and change every word.—H. B. WHEATLY in *Trans. Fil. Soc.*

ALPHABETS.—According to Isaac Taylor, all alphabets in use to day (except Chinese and Japanese, not alphabets in our sense) are descended from the Semitic, through the Hieratic and, through the later, from immemorial Hieroglyphs of Egypt. His tabular affiliation enumerates 76 distinct alphabets, of which 41 are still extant, extending from Morocco to Corea.—JOHN READE in *Dominion Illustrated*.

AO NAGA.—This language of southern Assam has recently been put in Roman dress by Rev. E. W. Clark ten years ago a missionary there. It is interesting to observe what values are given vowels. According to *Amer. Jur. Philology*, "The vowels have in Mr. Clark's scheme the Italian sound. A is heard as in *ah*; i as in *pin, pique*; e as in *met, they*; o as in *not, note*; u as in *boot*; a loopy v [u nearly] is for vowel in *but*, common in the language."

WICLIF.—With regard to orthog. of the name Wiclif, there was in 14th and 15th centuries, a great variety of ways of spelling it. Vaughan states that name was written in 20 different forms. As Lechler observes, the question should be settled by documents nearest in date to his own age. Now the oldest document of an official character is the Royal Commission of July 26, 1374, nominating him a Commissioner at Bruges in which he is called "Magister Johannes de Wiclif, Sacre Theologie Professor."—PENNINGTON in *Life of Wiclif*.

WHO CAN DO IT?—Is there an agency powerful enough to introduce suggestions of improvement in orthography? Probably the general impression is that there is not—not far wrong so far as actually existing agencies are concerned. Yet in questions of this sort

—like political ones on electoral or educational reform, etc.—the *vis inertiae* lasts to a certain point, and then suddenly perishes to every one's surprise, and leaves the field open to everything new. The *non possumus* is apt to be carried too far. A single writer, if of great popularity, has much in his power. If Dickens or Thackeray had chosen to adopt even the most absurd vagaries of orthog., they would have been strong enough to stem a tide of ridicule which would drown a small author, and if such writers adopted an intelligible system which was a manifest improvement, they might probably carry many with them, and the tacit approbation of many more.—MARTINEAU in *Trans. Phil. Soc.*, 1867. [The newspaper is now perhaps the most powerful means it could do it, and would, had it authority.]

FORMER VOWEL SOUNDS.

Owing to great changes in our pron. it is not easy for the reader to gain any clear ideas as to how Early English sounded when spoken, unless he will take pains to examine for himself, first putting aside all preconceived notions evolved out of his inevitable ignorance. The pron. of Anglo-Saxon is here of great assistance as pron. of English in 12th and 13th centuries was very similar with slight modifications. The best general rule that can be given for approximating sounds of Early Eng. vowels is to give a, e, i, o, u, their present continental values, *i, e*, as in German or Italian, carefully avoiding being misled by peculiar sounds which occur in our familiar modern Eng.—MORRIS, p. xiii., *Specimens of Early English*.

Nearly all continental languages including Latin—the usual Southern-English pronunciation of which is simply execrable—agree in a uniform system of simple vowels, and usually employ a, e, i, o, u, to represent (nearly) the sounds heard in *baa, bait, beat, boat, boot*. The fact that Old French words were introduced in great number into Middle Eng. without any change of spelling, is quite enough to show that pronunciation of Middle Eng. did not differ materially from that of Anglo-French; for sp. at that date was still phonetic. This enables us to say definitely, that, in time of Chaucer, a, e, i, o, u, had their modern (and ancient) continental values. It is quite certain that Celtic, Eng., and French all obtained their symbols from Latin alphabet; and employed them, at first, with nearly same powers. Our insular position has altered this.—SKEAT, § 18, *Prin. Etymology*.

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