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# The Herald.

DEVOTED TO PRONUNCIATION AND AMENDED SPELLING.

VOL. II, 39. TORONTO, CANADA, July-Sept., 1906. N<sup>o</sup>. 89.

## A GREAT PRELAT AND SPELLING.

In *Memoirs of Archbishop Temple*, just to hand, we lern that at six he cud do "any arithmetic," and before he went to scool new Latin gramar, Euclid (including the uncomon 11th and 12th books), spoke Italian (as wel as English), and modern Greek; yet, he had special dificulty in speling. If ever he attempted to argue that certain letters did not spel a word, his mother wud say "Freddy, don't argue, do yur work."

His is the experience of evry one, tho all sorts of excuses ar made. English peopl hug their "efete and corupt" speling as tho it wer angels' work; yet Mrs Temple wud not alow her brilliant boy to argue about it! If a thing or system wont stand the test of reason it is unworthy of adoration. What his mother forbad he did when bishop of Exeter: he rote Mr E. Jones, B.A., (sec. of sp. ref'm Conference, 1877): "I take much interest in proposed speling reform;" suggested forming a society of educated peopl pledged to spel fonetically in riting and in print, discarding the presnt system. The success of such a society wud, he tho't, depend greatly on their making the minimum change, with no new characters, but a few diacritics.

H. D.

## A SENSIBL VIEW.

The number of peopl who vehemently love the dificulties, absurdities, inconsistencies—crystalized ignorances—of present speling is very small. Neither their denunciation nor their ridicule wil weigh hevily on the great majority who think speling a means to an end, an end quite difrent from preserving etymologic history in most deceptiv, expensiv and clumsy forms. One might imagin from how enemies of this reform go on, that any changes made now wud be the first to which speling had been subjected—establishment of an evil precedent insted of merely a slight hastening, for convenience and economy, of a proces going on stedily ever since English became a ritn language. A correspondent says: "before we monky farther with an instrument as good as English, we o't to uze it properly." Wel, not necessarily. With a litl, even a lot, of "monkying" an amount

of time, incalculably large, now devoted to lern such utterly useles and imbecil things as aranging vowels in *siege* and *seize*, cud be uzed on the task that our corespondent wisely intimated as important. The Simplified-Speling Board's personality is garanty that demand for improved orthografy is not an outgrowth of ignorance or irreverence. They hav great afection for the history of words, and ar not at all likely to do what wil hide or distort it. They wil, however, put and keep that history in its proper place.—*New York Times*.

## THE STUMBLING BLOK.

On March 4, 1906, I met a very bright twely-year-old girl. She expects to graduate next year from the public scools of New York city. But if she fails, she says it wil be oing to speling, her worst branch. 336 w. 44, New York. G. W. WISHARD.

## NEWS-NOTES AND COMENTS.

—HERALD receipts in 1901: Hunter \$36.45 Drummond \$14.55, Pontifex \$4.86, Broomel, Phipson, each \$2, Tyson \$1.50, Hempl, Kimbal, Lyon, Werner, each \$1, Wray \$0.35, Wm Jones \$0.32, Boss \$0.28, Comp, Hicks, Hollingworth, Wishard, Mott, Sauer, Wilcox, each \$0.25, Johnson \$0.12.—Total \$68.18.

—The Simplified-Speling Board advocates no scheme of "fonetic reform," nor radical change of any kind. It beliefs in Sainte-Beuve's suggestion: "Orthografy is like society: it never wil be entirely reformd, but we can at least make it les vicios." Therefore the Board wishes, first, to awaken atention to the unfortunat condition of our speling; second, to encourage the tendency toard simplification by omission of useles letters—a tendency at work from the beginning, and which has made it posibl to spel *honor, wagon, almanac, music, comedy, fantasy*, insted of *honour, waggon, almanack, musicke, comedy, phantasie*. The Board wud like also to restore older spelings better than later perverted forms—*rime*, for exampl, *sovrain, island*.—BRANDER MATTHEWS in *New York Nation*, 26 April.

—We hav to thank Messrs Boss, Drummond, Marriot, Morris, Thomson and Wishard for markt copies of recent newspapers.

—Stōv'l or stōv'l is how *Stouffville*, the name of a vilage in York co., Ont.; is pronounced by residents therof.

—Tilsonburg, a vilage in Oxford co., Ont, was named after peopl named Tillson, of whom desendants stil liv there and ar famos for a brand of manufactured oats. They persist in speling their name with a dubl l. The official speling has been made Tillsonburg recently with this unnecessary dubl l, a retrograde step.

—A *Gram(m)ar of Innuït* (Eskimo) as spoken in western Alaska is published by Ginn & Co., Boston. It is by Rev. Francis Barnum, a Jesuit missionary. Pages xxv + 384; price, \$5.

—Prof. Vietor (frätör) has in pres (Ewert's, Marburg) a treatise on *Shakspear's Phonology*: also a *Shakspear Reader* with old spelling and *vis-a-vis* fonetic rendering. It wil be interesting to note what is taut as Shakspearian orthoepy, his own War(w)icshir or stage Londonese of the late Tudor period.

—Simplification of French Orthograpy by Prof. A. Schinz, of Bryn Mawr, (*Mod. Lang. Notes*, April) givs a summary of results for a year bak in the strugl between Comision and Academy (later than that recorded on our pages 159, 161.) "Up to now we hav witness skirmishes only; this time it was a real batl." We note supresion of the grave accent in all words where this sign conveys no special sound. It is dropt from a and u, kept for e *ouvert* [open e in *let*] and in all such.

—Mr W. T. Stead rites Mr Drummond: "I came across the fact the other day that *labour* was always spelt 'labor' in 17th century parliamentary debates. Don't yu think I hav sufficient advanced ideas to cary on my poor bak without ading speling reform? It was suggested that he *practise* it just a litl, enuf to sho his colors, without advocacy. Horace's old line comes to mind "I no and approve the better, but I do the worse."

—*Sonya*, Ontario Co., Ont., has a name frequently misspelt, tho simpl. The postmaster there kept note of difrent spellings of *Sonya* as receivd, and publisht them in the *Toronto Mail* for 29th May. They number 148. It is mentiond in our vol. 1, p. 73, that *Cayuga* was speld in 112 ways. Both *Cayuga* and *Sonya* ar fonetic now. Why ar they not speld uniformly? Very simpl speling wil not prevent the illiterat from going wide on receivd wordforms, however simpl. We advocate in plank 15 (not unsetld, but) spellings fixt and much simplifid.

—A Simplified Spelling Board (SSB) has been organized with office at 1 Madison av., New York. It has 30 members, 28 in the States, 2 (W. F. Maclean, M. P., Toronto, and A. H. Mackay, LL. D., Halifax) in Canada. Several ar to be named in British Isles when consent to act is got. It has an executiv of 8, all New Yorkers, permiting meeting redily. Prof. B. Matthews is chairman of executiv; Dr C. P. G. Scott is its secretary.

—Mr Carnegie is reported to hav bakt the SSB (himself a member) at a rate of \$15,000 a year for five years. Besides being auditor-treasurer, and furnishing the mainspring, he takes a "four-in-hand in." Mr W. F. Maclean says "It wil go now. I had douts hitherto."

—The SSB wisely tabooes these two expressions: *speling reform* and *fonetic speling*. Ther ar many conservativ-minded peopl to whom all mention of any reform acts as a red flag on a bul, forthwith producing unreasoning, obstinat hostility. It is mistaken tactics to display red. Any fonetic notation for popular use is utopian, tho indispensabl for scientific work and especially for comparison of results. The most advanced New Speling that can be introduced popularly (a syndrom to Old Speling) can be at most but approximatly fonetic.

—A few years ago the state Pres Aso'n met at Sedalia, Mo., where an over-zealous enthusiast had them to pas a resolution printed thus:

"Hweraz the iregularitiz ov English orthog rafi ar a great obstacl in progres ov the pepl  
"Hweraz silent leterz alone ad about 25 per cent. tu the cost ov ol riting and printing,

"Therefore, be it resolved by the misuri editorz, in convenshun asembled, that  
and so on. The *New York Post*, speaking wisely and wel and by inspiration, as we believ, says,

"This shows lengths to which the SSB wil not go." They fear to go too far and too fast, which wud but defeat their own object and neutralize others' efforts.

—A second donation of \$5 reaches THE HERALD from Mr G. W. Wishard, New York. It has been put in the type-fund, raising it to \$11'62

—The twenty bound vol's of Pitman's *Journal*, givn THE HERALD by Prof. Candy's wil, as mentiond on p. 158, hav been presented to the library of St. Bride's Foundation, Bride lane, off Fleet st., London. All literature that Mr Burca gatherd and uezd in riting his 27 artcils was givn the Foundation and preservd there. The Foundation maintains a Tecnical Institute in connection with the printing trades.

—"The Present Spoken Language of Scotland" by Herbert Smith (in *Neuere Sprachen*, Feb.) is a plea that the speech herd in Scottish universities is as near normal English as that in English ones and better as a model for German and other foren students than Londonese with a Cokny element evrywhere. To call Sweet's Londonese "English" is to mislead confiding foreners, as they lern to their soro as soon as they go out of London. It is a pity that Passy was hypnotized and fel into a Sweet sleep. Smith notes that in English universities many professors and students ar drawn from Scotland.

—Passy has in pres (Teubner's, Leipzig) *Petite Phonétique*, a primer of fonetics like Vietor's *Kleine Phonetik*. The latter is translated into English with a few omisions by Ruppmann as *Elements of Fonetics*, Eng., Fr., & Ger. Dent, 1s 6d.

—"A New Throat-Sound" (*Muit. Phon.*, May) givs Sweet's latest views as to chest consonants—compare our p. 150—or sounds formd by contractions belo the larynx. He finds two:—1) A contraction of the windpipe or trachea, an elastic tube kept open by 18 or 20 rings incomplete at bak. With ful contraction—infinît degrees of contraction ar posibl—a clear aspirat is got, weaker than Arabic ha. but stronger than h. Tracheal contraction naturally accompaniies high notes, and perhaps helps to produce them by its contraction pushing up the larynx, which, as is wel known, rises for high notes and tung-front-lip-retracted (i, i, ø, e) vowels. 2) Bronchial contraction. This accompaniies notes abnormally lo. Does it help to produce them by contraction of bronchi giving a pul down on windpipe and larynx for lo notes, as in singing o-, and u-notes?

#### LITERATURE

A FIRST STEP. Announcement of Aims of SSB and Names of Members. 3 pages.

A LIST OF 300 COMMON WORDS SPELD IN TWO OR MORE WAYS. Introduction. Rules. 12 p.

IBIDEM in difrent form, with Authorities. 8 p.

AMELIORATION OF SPELLING, an Adress by Prof. Calvin Thomas, LL. D. 8 pages.

SPELING OF YESTERDAY AND TO-MORROW by Prof. Brander Matthews, D. C. L. 8 pages.

A STATEMENT ABOUT SIMPLIFIED SPELLING Items of Information and Corections of Misapprehensions. 4 pages.

These six circulars ar the SSB's output to 1st July. The 12 words is extended to 300, use of which makes no great change in print as many of them ar rare. Most ar preferd spellings included in lists already givn by us. Such ar comendabl; a few ar questionabl. *Gazel* and *gazet* with singl l or t lead to gæz<sup>l</sup> or gæz<sup>t</sup> in orthoepy—dubl l or t helps prevent this. *Adult* and *address* (n) tend to shift stres to first sylabl: we spel 'adress' as helping to preserv

orthoepy stil ruling. Stres on the second sylabl of a noun is not regular. A final dubl l or t helps point to g<sup>z</sup>el, g<sup>z</sup>et. This merciles slauter of all dubl consonants the Board's secretary advocated in print long ago, as did Dr Harley. Singl final consonants ar questionabl in *coquet*, *distil* (Latin *destil-*), *instil*, *quartet*, *quintet*, *septet*, *sextet*, as is l in *woolen*. æ and œ ar reduced to e, advocated generally by the secretary (see *Speling*, Mar. 1894). Is this satisfactory in general, however so in particular words? The SSB in these circulars proceeds on a safe basis which shud secure public aprobatation. Publishers then, in numbers stedily increasing, wil uze better wordforms.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF MODERN LANG. ASOC'N ON PROPOSED FONETIC ENG. ALFABET.

This pamflet of 10 pages is virtualy the minority report of the Joint Committee as noted on our p. 140. It is a unanimos deliverance (tho "one member voted with some misgivings" on use of j with its German value, our y) by Prof's Sheldon and Grandgent of Harvard, Bright of Johns Hopkins, Hempl of Michigan (removing to California) and Weeks of Misuri. 11 vowels and 22 consonants hav symbols—good! Of 12 points past on, the first 3 ar aproved (use of a, æ, a, as in NED) as is the last; the others ar questionabl. One old sign (a) now gets its proper value. Let another (o) be uzed properly; ø abolisht; and a good a-symbol put for misfit v. As result ther wud be almost perfect acord with NED, in line with which THE HERALD has been for sevn or eight years.

WIE IST DIE AUSSPRACHE DES DEUTSCHEN ZU LEHREN? VON WM Vietor, Prof. etc. Elwert, Marburg. 3d edition, 30 p. 12mo, 1 Mark.

Frankfurt teachers askt an adress (*Vortrag*) from Vietor on how German orthoepy shud be taut, as he is an authority on both normal German and its dialects. He lectured them on that and on what is normal German, most of his points being paraleld in English. He says: "Schools shud teach a standard, unprovincial orthoepy, viz., the stage's North German as uzed in serios drama"—a masterly conclusion that deservs translation and reproduction.

A CRITICAL DISENTER,

I disent from yur opinion (p. 126) that ê wil not wel represent a in *fate*, as ê is uzed in french for open e, becaus, 1), In north Eng. and in Scotland e has the bro'd sound; 2), the sounds of one language ar not exactly those of another; 3), the circumflex, being most conspicuos, shud be uzed for the "long" sounds in *part*, *fate*, *pique*, *poke*, *prude*, leaving the acute one for the sharp sounds in *pat*, *pet*, *pit*, *pot*, *put*, the second of which is as near french

é as ê [?\*], and releasing the grav accent for bro'd fones in *gun*, *pert*, *port*. So, english vowels hav signs that printers hav.

In *Christmas*, *handkerchief*, *often*, on p. 133, sound the evasis consonant.

I dislike Mr Tuttle's stereotyping vulgar and slovenly diction [orthoepy?].

In many respects american English is more corect and idiomatic than british (at any rate, cokny) uzage; but I prefer *hart ailment* to "hart trubl" (p. 134); *arange* for "fix"; *sumptuous* for "elegant." Rite parliament for parlement (p. 145, italian *parlamento*, ger. *parlament*); drop an n from "annually" on page 148.

N. E. D. is a broken reed to lean on in orthoepy—in some words, wel; in others, corectnes is cast to the winds if disagreeing with pronunciation fasionabl now at Oxford: as, *hagiology* is hædʒiɔl-odʒi, *combine* (n.) is kombəɪn. Even etymology is grosly rong. Among innumerabl erors I note: *Cheek* (impudence) is put under "of the features" with which it has no connection, being akin to german *keck*. I hav herd *cheekish* identical with the german *keckisch*.

E. A. PHIPSON.

[\* French fête is from Old French *feste* (whence our *festal*, *festive*, *festival*) and its first sylabl rimed with *rest*, as it did in its erlier form, Folk-Latin *fest-*. Within three centuries French has dropt many an s after e, *mesme* becoming *même*, e.g., the e retaining its sound, but prolongd as is the rule in elision. This ê may be considerd ê with apostrofe (sign of elision) put before the grav accent to form a circumflex. Passy and all French foneticians, as gramarians generally, sharply distinguish it from é, which *coresponds* (tho not quite *coinciding*) with e in *they*, *grey*, *prey*. Like Fr. vowels generally, é has greater intensity (and, necesarily, les duration) than e, and with no vanish (i) any more than Italian vowels, which latter Skeat has taut (on our pages 142, 168) shud be taken as standard. Mr P. asks to hav Eng., Fr., Ger., etc., put with small initials. This is not a matter of speling at all, but of style. It is manifestly unwise for advocats of a simpler set of wordforms to mix up and cary extraneous subjects. We cary too much now. Impediments clog, trip, hinder and overweigh. Such can turn a scale.—ED.]

PROF. SKEAT SPEAKS OUT AGAIN.

[From adress before the British Academy in May last as cabled over.]

The real obstacl to speling reform lies in its oposers' ignorance. Partial reform recomended by Philological Societies in 1881 was ridiculed to deth by riters for the pres, ignorant of etymology and fonetics, totally unaware of their ignorance.

Presnt absurd contradictions in speling ar not waranted by either history or reason. Many spelings wer quite arbitrary, as final e in *have, live, solve, axe*. He traced historically how this and other anomalies entered the language, including *comfort, money, donkey*, insted of cumfort, muney, dunkey. He was particularly scornful of English peopl for insisting on u in *labour, colour, etc.*, and oposing its omision as an American inovation. Such words wer speld without u before Columbus was born.

He scoft at objectors as slaves of an idle habit of judging by eye insted of by ear. A word's only tru speling was what most reasonably gave its sound. Base all reform on the corect pronunciation of Latin vowels. In Chaucer's time Latin was speld as pronounced in Italy, and English was then speld so too. Return to this shud be the first step in reform.

[From a fuller report in *Athenæum*, 12 May.]

For practical purposes, all speling reform is imposibl thru unintelligent hostile action by the pres due to limited number of jurnalists acquainted with fonetics—to be remedid by more general noledge of fonetics. Markt advance wud likely result from adoption in scools of Roman pronunciation of Latin. This wud at once illuminate our perception of ritn symbols and enable us to see their tru historic meaning. Shud sp. ref'm be first efected in America, it may be an advantage since the language's history is nōn more widely there. The president of an American university recently told Prof. Skeat with emfasis and truth: "In our universities English takes first place." This fact an Englishman can hardly understand.

#### FOR CONVENTIONAL SELECTION.

Mr Ben (n Pitman, in view of a posibl convention, says (*Phonog'c Mag.*, March) an intelligint laity shud discuss:

- 1) Ar ch (in *chair, chant, etch*) and j (in *jeer, jaunt, edge*) simpl or compound, tf, dj?
- 2) Is u (in *mule, union, Utah*) yu or iu?
- 3) Ar a (in *mate, ale, fade*) and o (in *old, four, Rome*) simpl or difthongal?
- 4) Is *when* hwen or wēn?
- 5) Is o (in *on, not, opposite*) identical with but briefer than the vowel in *all, awning, naught*? Millions of Americans, more especially in Western States, make this o a very near approach tu a.
- 6) Ar the elements of i (in *eye, isle, time*) ai, ei, oi, or ai? *The Century* dictionary and other authorities uze ai.

These points and many like them hav been discust often in these pages. Free and ful discussion seems a necessity preliminary to selectiv setlment, as conventions ar ever hurrid. Of this ther is need just now, becaus the *Chicago Tribune*, a friend while Hon. Jos. Medill livd, urges diversity in orthoepy as insuperabl.

In 3) e<sup>i</sup> and o<sup>u</sup> ar the difthongs ment.

In America, o in a large clas of words of which *not* is type not only "approaches" but coincides with a (in *art, artistic, bazuar*). Consider 'a' in the abstract, apart from quantity (any of the three elements of strength mentioend on p. 163), and free from attractiv influences (often misleading) of surrounding consonants in key-words. For the a-family, their historical development is givn in the first paragraf of Wright's *Dialect Dict*. In the very first line he says: "*Apart from the influence of neighboring sounds, the uzual development*" is so and so. (Italics ar ours).

On the contrary, in considering 1), the *mutual* attraction of two adjacent sounds must be rememberd. Therin, in dy, d is attracted bak by y, and y is drawn forward by d into the j-position (which lies close between d and y). Then we hav j = dj. Similarly, ch = tf. Tho they ar compound in Orthoepy, yet it is wise to treat them as simpl in Orthografy.

#### OTHER COUNSEL.

Mr Carnegie's 300 words shud be acompanied by a definit alfabet [to no what wordforms to work toard]. Else, who wil adopt the 300 and feel sure to stay?

Uze c for ch, x for sh or zh, as Mr Wilcox suggests on p. 163. Alredy x is uzed so in Portuguese and Excelsioro. As to "Britons who cry no new letters," our position is rather: *As few as posibl*. Exampl, o is a compound, a difthong (o<sup>u</sup>). For it ou ansers admirably. Why then hav a new letter? At most, two or three new letters [differentials?] wil suffice. Hevn spare us the ugly forms a, e, a, o, y. For u, the only one necessary, Mr Brown, of West Hartlepool, designs a prettier form. Wellington, Eng. SIDNEY E. BOND.

From Wellington, N. Z., Mr R. C. Harding rites (*Jwr. O. & O.*, May) that y is so excelent that it meets with almost universal acceptance. It is a comon sound in South-Sea tungs wherin it is often initial. Misionaries therin put old letters to new and strange uses (as g for y, b for mb, c for p), and this produces confusion. He wud accept c for ch but for one weighty reason, tradition. . . . old asociations cling.

In New Speling.]

#### PROGRESSIV DEVELOPMENT.

Not enjoinment, and not soro,  
Iz aur destind end or wa,  
Bat tu act, ðat ich tu-moro  
Faind as farðar ðan tu-da.

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