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The Herald.

DEVOTED TO PRONUNCIATION AND AMENDED SPELLING.

5th YEAR. TORONTO, CANADA, November, 1889. N^R 49.

HOW IT CAME ABOUT

Riting,* that wonderful method of arresting sound which has made human memory independent of life, and has thus perpetuated noledg, was necessarily at first confined to the lerned alone, the priest and the filosofer. These fixt, as nearly as they cud appreciate, or their method of symbolization, necessarily insuficient, wud allow, the sounds of their own language as they herd them in their own day. Their successors venerating the invention, or despairing of introducing improvements, trod servilly in their steps and mostly used the old symbols while the sounds changed around them. Within limits of powers of old symbols some changes wer made from time to time, but very sloly. Then in quite recent days, the inovation of diacritic signs arose as in Fr. and Ger, whereby a modern modification of ancient usage was more or les indicated. Ocasionaly, hole groups of leters formerly correctly used to indicate certn sounds came to be considerd as groups indicating new sounds,—not in all cases, but in many perhaps, where sounds had changed by regular derivation. Before printing, riters, become more numerus, had become also les controld by exampl of ancestors, and endeavord as wel as they cud, with numerus conventions, inconsistencis imperfections and shortcomings, renderd inevitabl by inadequacy of instruments, to expres on paper the sounds herd. When we ar fortunat enuf to find the real handiwork of a tho'tful riter, as Orrmin, we see how much might hav been done to clear our riting of inconsistencis. But with printing came belief in necessity of fixt orthog. to facilitate work of compositor and reader. The regulation speling was taken from the intellectual and givn to a mecanical clas. Uniformity at all hazards was the aim. And uniformity has been gaimd to a great extent in late years, but at sacrifice which uniformity is far from being worth—loss of noledg of how our ancestors spoke, concealment of how we speak at present, innumerable difficultis to both reader and riter, and hence great impediments to aquisation of noledg.—ELLIS, in chap. I. *E. E. Pron.*

ACCENT.

How the prominence and distinction which constitute accent ar givn the accented sylabl is not to be simply and briefly defined, becaus even in the same language it varis considerably under varying circumstances. We ourselvs, tho we call our accent stres of voice, sufer it to find expresion in diferent ways: by higher pitsh, by prolongation, by increast force, by completeness and distinctnes of enunciation—any one of these, or two or more combined. Taking the language word by word, the first method, elevation of pitsh, prevails. Choose a specimen word of more than one sylabl, read a list of words, and the accented sylabl wil hav evry time a higher tone; to mark it otherwise wil either seem unnatural and affected, or wil giv impresion of saying something, of using the word as an abreviated sentence, with context oमित. For, in uttering a sentence, the modulation of voice belonging to the expresion of the sentence predominates, throing proper word-accent into a holly subservient place, as regards pitsh of voice and compeling resort to the other means of distinction: even in certn cases, reducing or annulling the accentual distinction. Giv out *Jonathan* to be spelt, or mention it as specimen of a proper name, and first sylabl wil be raisd above the others; so also when it ansers a question like “who is here?” But make a question of the word itself, and the relation of pitsh is reverst; uter the sylabls in monotone, and astonishment or reproach may be conveyd; and the same monotone wil be the effect of puting it after a strongly emfatic word: and each combination of tones may be shifted up and down the scale thru considerable intervals, to satisfy higher needs of expresion. If we enunciate a hole sentence together, the same subordination of word-stres or accent to sentence-stres or emfasis—most marktly in pitsh, yet not in that alone—wil be clearly aparent; tho accent no more notably makes the unity of a word than does emfasis that of the frase or sentence; to uter each word as if we wer pronouncing it alone wud be insuferably monotonous and tedius, wud distroy life and soul in speech.—WHITNEY, in chap. xi, *O. & Linguistic Studies.*

*REVISED SPELLING:—OMIT useles leters CHANGE *d* to *t*, *ph* to *f*, *gh* to *f*, *ch* to *sk*, if sounded so—rules justified by Revision of spelling (in progres)

NOTES ON PRONUNCIATION.

GRAY'S ELEGY (*continued*).

And leavs the world to darknes and to me. 4

To is tu. Some giv it as tū, tho tū is more comonly reservd for *too* and *two*.

Darkness is dark'nes; that is, we ar inclined to consider that as standard in distinct pronunciation. Other varieties of actual pronunciation ar, dɑ'k, dɑ'rk, dɑ'rk, and dɑ'k, for the first sylabl, where ɹ denotes a variety of untrild *r* in which the tung-tip is believd to be elevated and retracted into the dome of the palat, "vocalized retracted *r*" of Mur. The later sylabl is also givn as nés by Mur., tho it is not quite clear what vowel is ment. N's and n's ar herd too, where ¹, ², denote faint i, ə. We hav objected to the excesiv use of ə, as occurs in colloquial speech. Frequent degradation of other vowels to ¹ is to be shund as wel. The ¹ and ² ar simply the two to which our vowels tend in careles speech. Use of ¹ as in d'fend, d'pend, 'icspend, etc., for *defend*, *depend*, *expend*, etc., violates all etymology, and that unnecessarily. A vowel that at one time becomes ² wil be ¹ at another, as notably with *the*. It wud be interesting to no what law governs the selection. This use of ¹ has been objected to in other quarters: as by the *Popular Science Monthly* (Sep., 1888, page 712) editorially:—

"Bell says 'the terminations in *certain*, *fountain*, *foreign*, *cottage*, *courage*, *language*, ar regularly 'contracted to -in, -ij, and ar so ritn in World-'English,' but we believ [that] most pronounce these sylabls more like -en, ej."

The *Century Dictionary* wil giv cur'ej, etc., as pronunciation of *courage*, etc. See *HERALD* for June, p. 182. Whitney says:

"T er ar certn clases of words also in which e is alowd by orthoepists to be lightnd into i, such ar especialy words in *tain*, as *mountain*, *certain*, *captain*; those in *age* and *ace*, as *cabbage*, *village*, *palace*; those in *ege*, as *college*, *knowledge* and so on: as also to final *ness*, *es*, *ed* treated in the same manner. To me this change of e to i seems always worse than easy and familiar; to be slovenly, rather; and unworthy of recognition by orthoepists."—Page 232 of 2d vol. of *O. & L. Studies*.

(*To be continued.*)

AIM AT DISTINCT SPEECH.

Speling wil always lag a certn way behind actual speech, especialy the careles, lawles speech of familiar conversation. In my opinion, therefore, it is futil to aim at representing this in practical speling; let us aim at providing a means of speling what men *mean* to say, *aim* at saying, and in mesured or formal speech or song *do* say, not at the shortcomings which, tho inseparabl from speech, ar none the les unintentional, and to be discouraged. Evry system of riting, except one on a purely fysiologic basis, like Bell's Visibl Speech,

must be not merely conventional, but even to some extent inconsistently conventional; we shal do wel if we can arive at the stage of riting English in a way that shal practicaly represent the ideal of speech to which all educated Englishmen approximate, tho none may reach it, and which is as far removed from the slurd or imperfect utterance of the average Londoner (which seems to be the cynosure that attracts some authors of proposed systems), as it is from the arcaic or even semi-foren pronunciation of distant provinces. This bears I think on such maters as the represent'n of obscure and unaccented vowels. riting sounds which educated men aim at producing, not what men in a hurry actually succeed in producing. If the reader aim at the former, he may be trusted always to reach the later; if he aim only at the later, he wil soon fall short even of them, and want stil newer speling for his stil more defectiv utterance.—D^r MURRAY in *Annual Adres*, 1880, as *Pres't Fil. Soc.*

LONDONEZE.—Ther is a clas of orthoepists in England whose peculiaritis ar only slightly overdrawn in the comical farce of "Lord Dundreary," a dramatic piece that had a great run a few years ago. This speech is herd mostly in the West End of London, and is afected by loungers at the clubs. One of its chief distinctions is the melting away of robust *r*. In "Laud the Lord," the first and last words ar pronounced exactly alike; no distinction is made between *father* and *farther*. Out of London, *r* is trild out clearly, especialy in Scotland, Ireland, Wales and the north of England.—E. JONES, Liverpool, in Ringos, N. J., *Journal of American Orthoepy*.

WORLD-SPEECH.—The extent of the great European languages is about (in millions) as follos:—

	In Europ	Out of Europ	Total
English	37	70	107
French	42	6	48
German	70	5	75
Italian	28·8	·7	29½
Spanish	17	27	44
Portuguese	4	10·5	14½

This approximat estimat shows how far is English ahead of all rivals. Eng.-speaking races increas faster than others, so that their language wud bid fair to become universal, if, on the other hand, it was not likely to split up into at least three dialects.—*Paris Teacher*. To prevent which calamity, let no local pronunciation be taken as standard, but let Fusion-English, (best represented in the British Isles by the Midland Counties' speech) be recognized as the great British-American language. Adopting a standard is now a necessity.

SOCIETY FOR STUDY OF SPEECH.

(Meeting of 7th Oct.)

D^r Hamilton treated of

WHAT IS A CONSONANT?

Formerly, a vowel was defined as such voice-sound as cud be sounded alone, as o, e; while a consonant (which ment *sounded with*) cud be sounded only with help of a vowel. Thus, f was named ef; l, el; s, es; v, ve; etc. Yet f, l, s, v, can be sounded alone, as also m, n, ŋ, θ, z, ʒ, ð. So, the old definition must be held to hav broken down.

It is beter to define a vowel as one having such free opening as to giv a *note*; a consonant is a *noise*, ther being with most a breth-friction, a sort of rusling, due to obstruction. If such obstruction be *complete*, ther is no sound, but a stop; if *partial*, a sound is produced. K, t, and p ar stops, stopage being at soft palat, gums, or lips. If voiced breth be stopt at these places, g, d, or b, respectively, results. T, d, l, n, hav the tung-tip aplied to the same spot, but the spot varied in diferent languages, being farther forward in French and some North American Indian tungs, for exampl, than in ours.

With obstruction complete at lips but with breth-escape at nose, by making the soft palat drop a litl, we hav m; likewise n and ŋ for the two other spots.

If partial obstruction be very far bak in throat, the oriental gutural results; if between soft palat and dorsum of tung, ther results the *ch* in Ger. *ich* or *ach* and Scotch *loch*, once comon in our tung, now dropt in standard speech, tho stil herd in dialect. Then we hav in order, as seat of obstruc'n shifts from bak to front, ʃ, r, l, s, θ, f. In our f, the loer lip aproacht the uper teeth, and so f and v wer labio-dental: in others they wer pure labials.

Without obstruction other than special narowing, we hav w, y, which without this narowing hav the position for ū and e, respectively. U and e ar closest vowels, other vowels coming between them and a, the maximum of opnnes.

After general discusion, D^r Price Brown went over the

ANATOMY OF MOUTH AND NOSE

follod by laryngoscopic demonstration.

I. In the *mouth* ar: 1°, gums; 2°, teeth; 3°, palat, hard and soft; 4°, uvula; 5°, anterior pilar of fauces; 6°, posterior pilar; 7°, tonsil; 8°, posterior wall of farynx; 9°, tung; 10°, cheek.

II. In the image of the *posterior nose* ar: 1°, gland tissue; 2°, vomer or posterior nasal septum; 3°, nasal pasage; 4°, superior turbinated bone; 5°, midl d°; 6°, inf^r d°; 7°, Eustachian tube; 8°, soft palat.

III. In vertical section thru midl line

ar seen: 1°, sup^r turb^d bone; 2°, midl d°; 3°, inf^r d°; 4°, sup^r meatus; 5°, midl d°; 6°, inf^r d°; 7° up^r farynx; 8°, Eustⁿ tube; 9°, hard palat; 10° soft d°; 11°, farynx; 12°, tonsil; 13°, ant^r pilar; 14°, post^r pilar; 15°, mouth; 16°, tung; 17°, larynx; 18°, esofagus; 19°, trachea; 20°, spinal colum.

D^r B. holds that b difers from p only in b having place of contact behind p, z behind s, and so of the other pairs.

The Society adjurd to meet at 41 Carlton St. on Monday, 28th Oct., at 8 p. m., for a paper on "Importance of Speling Ref^m" by M^r Orr, who, tho not a Nestor in years, is the Ontario pioneer in that.

trial corner.]

DE PRÖDIGAL SUN.

[In this sampl is shown (not Orthograpy, but) Orthoepy, giving word-division and accent. As Murray says, "Speling wil always lag behind speech," orthoepic discriminations being too many for the hury of newspaper work. How closely Orthog. and Orthoepy shud approximate depends on what purpos such orthog. is to be put. A fairly close approximat is needed to teach reading—a stil wider one for evry-day use, the grades of aproach from comon speling up to such, while systematic, being easy, not abrupt.]

a sər't'n man had tū sunz: and ðə
 yuŋ'gər əv ðəm sed tu hɪz fɑ'dər,
 fɑ'dər, gɪv mɛ ðə pɔr'ʃən əv ðaɪ
 sub'stans ðat fɔ:l'eθ tu mɛ. and
 hɛ dɪvɔɪd'ed ʊn'tu ðəm hɪz lɪv'ɪŋ.
 and nɛt mɛn'i dɛz af'tər, ðə yuŋ'-
 gər sun gɑ ðərd əl tu gɛ'dər, and
 tʊk hɪz ʃʊr'ni ɪn'tu a fər kʊn'tri;
 and ðər hɛ wɛs'ted hɪz sub'stans
 wɪð rɔɪ'ətəs lɪv'ɪŋ. and hwen hɛ
 had spent əl, ðər aroz' a mɔɪ'tɪ
 fəm'ɪn ɪn ðat kʊn'tri; and hɛ bɛ-
 gan' tu bɛ ɪn wɛnt. and hɛ went
 and jɔɪnd hɪmsɛlf' tu wʊm əv ðə
 sɪt'ɪzɛnz əv ðat kʊn'tri; and hɛ sent
 hɪm ɪn'tu hɪz fɛldz tu fɛd swɪn.
 and hɛ wʊd fən hav bɛn fɪld wɪð
 ðə hʊskz ðat ðə swɪn dɪd ɛt: and
 no man gəv ʊn'tu hɪm. but hwen
 hɛ kəm tu hɪmsɛlf' hɛ sed, hau
 mɛn'i haɪrd sər'vənts əv mɔɪ fɑ'-
 ðərz hav bred ɛnʊf' and tu spar,
 and aɪ pɛ'rɪʃ hɛr wɪð hʊŋ'gər! aɪ
 wɪl aɪzɪz' and go tu mɔɪ fɑ'dər,
 and wɪl sɛ ʊn'tu hɪm, fɑ'dər, aɪ hav
 sɪnd aɟɛnst' hɛv'n, and ɪn ðaɪ saɪt:
 aɪ am no mɔr wʊr'dɪ tu bɛ kɔ:ld
 ðaɪ sun: mɛk mɛ az wʊm əv ðaɪ
 haɪrd sər'vənts. and hɛ aroz' and
 kəm tu hɪz fɑ'dər. and hwaɪl hɛ
 wɛz yet a fər' əf, hɪz fɑ'dər sɛ:
 hɪm, and wɛz mʊvd wɪð kɔmpaʃ'n
 and rən, and fɛl ɛn hɪz nek, and
 kɪst hɪm.--Luke, xv., 11-15.

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
 θ thigh, ð thy, ʃ fish, ʒ rouge, ʒ sing.

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—In a publication of the Canadian Institute, about 1851, *controld* is speld “controulled.” Great Scot! why did they not put c-o-n-t-r-o-u-g-h-l-l-e-d!

—A bright litl girl, riting a frend, adrest it “care of Pesar Brown.” She undertook to spel Prof. by ear. Who wil say that she did not succeed, as comonly pronounced.

—No dout simplification of orthograpy wud facilitate considerably the task of lerning to read. A language which like Spanish has reduced speling to a perfectly uniform system has a great advantage over others.—*J. S. Mill.*

—Few stop to reflect that orthog. is the most arduus study for children, consisting almost entirely of *comiting to memory the few hundred words in comon use*, and trusting to lexicon for others: hence each has a clog throuth life in shape of a big dictionary tied to him.

—The *Shorthand Writer* for Dec., 1885, publisht a table giving relativ frequency of all sounds in the language based on selections including in the agregat 20,000 sounds. The comparativ frequency of the folloing sounds is:—

<i>t</i>	1477,	<i>r</i>	1450,	<i>n</i>	1449,	<i>s</i>	1007,
<i>d</i>	893,	<i>l</i>	857,	<i>z</i>	578,	<i>m</i>	555,
<i>c & k</i>	503,	<i>v</i>	440,	<i>w</i>	430,	<i>p</i>	407.

ØI.—The third difthong, that in *coil*, *boy*, and their like, is of quite diferent carcter from the other two; while they ar mixtures, it is a mere juxtaposition, a union, by abbreviated uterance, of two distinct vowel sounds within the compas of one sylabl, the two being no more blended than if two separat sylabls. Their incombinability is due to their belonging to diferent series: the first element is “broad *a*” [ø] of *all*; the secnd is palatal, short *i* of *pin*; and the former is the longer and stronger of the two [ø' or ø'i]. Their greater separability may be shown by comparing *loyal* with *trial*, *avocal*; in the first we might question whether the uterance is more loi-al or lo-yal [loi'al or le'yall]; in the others, the *al* is a plain addition to the di and au sounds, which maintain their carcter unimpaired.—WITNEY in Part viii of 2d vol. of *O. & L. Studies*.

THE LATIN ALFABET.—It was extremely deficient, consisting only of A, B, C, D, E, F, H, I, L, M, N, O, P, R, S, T, V, X, to which in ancient times, G, K, Q, wer aded, and, in order to expres Greek sounds, the Greek letters Y, Z, and the digrafs ch, rh, ph, th, the fruitful source of numerus similar contrivances. J, U, W, Æ, Æ, ar post-clasical. The varius modern languages of Europ in adopting the same alfabet did not scruple to use at least 17 leters in new senses, to introduce at least 44 new digrafs, and at least 42 new leters formd by ading diacritic marks to old forms.—*A. J. Ellis.*

MARKT LETERS.

To accented leters I object stongly as unsuited for printers, readers, riters, and alfabetarians. Accented leters ar not cast for all fonts of type and ar so seldm cast for consonants or capitals, as practicaly not to exist. When cast, they ar suplied in limited numbers, and ther ar no boxes for them in ordinary compositors' “cases,” so that their introduction even for vowels is practicaly equivalent to new types. For accented consonants, and for new diacritic accents, fresh types hav to be cut. Accents, again, ar always liabl to breakage, especially in “kernd” leters. The compositor redily confuses them, and his errors ar difficult to detect by corrector for pres. These objections aply with les force to accented leters which form part of recognized orthog., as in Fr., Ger., Swedish, Danish, Hungarian, Bohemian, Polish, but even for these they aply to accented leters not in their alfabets. Accents ar liabl to blur and fl. A multiplicity of small marks (and type-founders take pride in making them inconspicuous) is very distresing. When they form part of a language he does not feel efect so much, becaus he does not require to observ with attention. But when they ar numerus, new, and important to distinguish, the case is alterd. I found close attention and frequent use of a lens necessary, in my late study of Lepsius' *Standard Alfabet*. The riter who finds even doting i's and crossing t's a great inconvenience, frequently omits accents (see any Frenchman's manuscripts;) mis-rites them, or rites them so rufly and hastily that they ar extremely difficult to distinguish by any other reader, e. g, the printer, unles he nos beforehand what they o't to be. I no also from experience that when an alfabetarian allows himself to use diacritic marks, he multiplies them excesivly, and inevitably uses them unsystematicaly.—*A. J. Ellis.*

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