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# The Phonetic Herald

DEVOTED TO PRONUNCIATION AND REVISED SPELLING.

2<sup>ND</sup> YER. PORT HOPE, CANADA, JUN, 1886. N<sup>R</sup>. 16.

## STAGES OF PROGRES.

It is not wise to ask the general public to accept any form of spelling more simplified than that called

### REVISED SPELLING

giving by Rules A and B of which present spelling affords example. It rectifies a great deal altho simpl. Such farther moderat revision as may from time to time be made in the same direction shud be included in this term Revised Spelling. This term appears apropiat becaus sugesting the obvius paralel to Revised Translation of the Bible. Evry one can claim the same authority for both—the highest scolarship. Many wil think it too moderat. Such shud recollect that the public clings to old forms from simpl custom long after comon sens has condemd them. The German prefers the old German characters long after admision that Roman forms ar superior. Our laity stil prefer a translation ofn eroneus to a correct one. We hav recently seen the statement that the French pesant stil clings to the old irregular system of weights and mesures before a decimal system.

### PRONOUNCING ORTHOGRAPHY

is such as has provided a separat sign for each vowel (including diphthongs, altho this is matr of opinion) with fixt letr or digraf for each consonant. We then hav an aproximatly acurat representation of the sound which need not depart greatly from word forms in current use. As to what set of signs shal be used ther is diferece of opinion. We hav used a certan set to giv orthoepy of words. See pages 44, 48. The same shape is always employd to denote the same quality of sound; the accent mark is an indicator of quanti

ty all sufficient for ordinary purposes. Such orthography may be used in sentences and paragraphs for reading. So the correct orthoepy of words is readily taut, practist and impress on the mind. In paragraphs, unles otherwise exprest, the first syllabl is understood to be accented. It is a rule that the accent tends to the first syllabl. An exampl wil be found in Sowing and Reaping.

### SCHOOL ORTHOGRAPHY

is a stage scarcely les acurat than that just givn, and difering from it in that 'a' is used for the two vowels in *at* and *arm*; 'u' is used for the vowel in *rule* as well as in *put*, as al-o by consequence u for either when yd. When oo stands for vowel in *rule* in the old spelling, it may stil be employd. School Orthography is a means of teaching a fairly acurat pronunciation. It has the merit that it leavs optional the vowel in a certan clas of words, as for exampl whether fast or fast is the pronunciation of *fast*. An ilustration is givn by the May Song.

A stage intermediat between School and Revised Spelling may be necessary. Its limits can be givn in future. We then hav four stages which in order ar

1. Revised	2. Intermediat
3. School	4. Pronouncng.

—A litt felo in a primary school, havng corectly speld *knife*, askt the teacher a puzler 'But what is the *k* for?'

—A. N. Merriman, principal of the Hayes School, Chicago, says: 'The most difficult thing we hav to teach is *spelling*. It is a long, hard, laborius and almost hopeles task, and *hinders us* in ail the other brar-hes. This system [spelling by sound] reliev us of all our trubl. This is reawtabl, plain, simpl and direct and o't to hav been made and adopted five hundred years ago.'

## CORRESPONDENCE.

The *HERALD* is always welcome, the last number specially so. I shal watch with interest the 'test and try' experiment of Major Story. We shud by all means get into scools. Why not?

## ANALYSIS OF SPEECH SOUNDS

or the genesis of sounds by the relative positions of the organs of speech is very interesting. The vowel scale submitted by Mrs Burnz is a very practical one. Why shud we 'invent' new expedients and new letrs when we hav familiar symtols redy to hand for evry simpl and compound vowel sounds? as

SHORT { a e i o u ũ  
VOWELS { pat pet pit pot but put  
LONG { aa ai ee aw oe oo  
VOWELS { bazaar ail eel awl foe ooze  
DIFTHONGS OR { ei oi ow ew  
COMPOUND VOWELS { eider oil owl ewer  
DIFTHONGS

do not need to hav their elements defined with scientific precision. Theoris vary considerably, for instance, as to components of *ei* in *eider* and of *ow* in *owl*. The practical result is not affected by the theory: we hav easily recognized sounds associated with these symbols. While analysis is most interesting to the scientist, it does not tuch practical fonetics.

## PAIRING VOWELS

is not necessary in a practical working alfabet. It wud be difficult perhaps to find an exact pair of vowel sounds, long and short. Why then trubl so much about pairing when what we want is to asociate with a certain sound an invariabl symbol. Iz\* it posibl or dezirabl tu atempt tu reprezent dhe feiner

## SHALDZ OV SOUND.

by symbols? Mr A. J. Ellis haz cleerly shown dhat every vowel leter represents a group ov soundz; dhat dhe *specific* sound of each simbol depend on a vareity ov condishonz. Dhe *specific* sound ov dhe vowel iz affected by the soundz going befoer and cuming after, espeshaly r. It iz a controversy az old az fonetics whedher dhe sound in Lord iz not *aw*, but ei dont remember seeing eniunw propoez tu spel Lord, Lawrd. Why? Becauz dhe vowel iz lengthend by dhe foloing r. Agen, iz it not a fact

dhat children lern dhe feiner shaldz ov speech moer from imitashon ov dher teacherz playmats and parents? My point iz dhat it iz posibl in our skeemz tu atempt too much refeinment forgetting dhe weiz counsel ov S.R.A. dhat in eny skeem free play must be alowd for local and individual peculiarity.

25 Selborn St., Liver- }  
pool. 10th Joon, 1886. } E. JONES.

[\*From this point the orthograpy of the riter is folowd. The critical reader wil observ that ther is not rigid adherence to the symbols promulgated but easy drifting toards old speling in several words.—ED.]

## AMERICAN PRONUNCIATION.

[The foloing arises from our statement on p. 50 that, excepting certan peculiaritis, American speech is comparativly homogeneous, or free from dialect. By request, and for experiment's sake, it is put in an old-letr plan favord by M. Part of the reasons for M's chois may be inferd from what he has rittn page 49. *U* or *uy* is used for *i*, *y* for the vowel in *eel*, *es* or *ey* for that in *atl*, *uu* and *wo* for those in *ooze* and *owl* respectively.]

EDITER *HERALD*: SER.—Hweir yun fund dhe yuniformiti in dhi pronunsiashun ov dhi Amerikan pppl iz a puzl tu mg. Dhi abnormali larj proporshun ov pppl spyking Ingghlish tu huum it iz not dhi vernakyular renderz dheir yuazajez mor luikli tu by distruktyv ov dhi byuutiz ov Ingghlish spych dhan dizerving ov bying perpetuited. Dhi number ov dialektz and influenzez advers tu pyuriti is infintli greiter dhan in dhi mudher kuntri, dher bying Nygro, Jerman, Italyan, several Skandinavian, Rushyan (Menonuit). Chuingz, Indyan, and udher foren, besuidz Nyuu Ingghland or "Yangky," sudhern or western, ol syuperaded tu dhi Ingghlish, Skotish, and Uirish dialektz brot intu dhi kuntri buy imigrants. In dhi mudher kuntri, dhi spych ov edyukeited pppl duz not difer mor wuidli dhan on dhis kontinent; it tendz mor and mor tu asimileishun, and dhi veri narownes ov dheir limits renderz dhi proses mor gzi. It iz dhi perfekshun ov dhi modez ov spych ov meni diferent pppl ol ov huum hav olweyz spoken Ingghlish; and it is dhi spych hwich is tu-dey folowd buy edyukeited spykerz thruuwt dhi Ingghlish-spyking werld. In Ostreilya, dhi therd greit senter ov Ingghlish spych, dhi influens ov dhi spych ov old Ingghland iz paramuwnt.

M.

[Diference of opinion arises from a

difference of meaning attach to *dialect*. Worcester says dialect is "The form of a language, or the mode of speaking or riting it, *peculiar to a certain province or district*." In this sense, a dialect can be spoken only by the preponderating majority in a district. Broken speech from a Norwegian is a personal peculiarity which others in his district don't copy, not even his children. *National peculiarities* largely disappear in a single generation in the great whirlpool, America. *M* shud specify districts. He does not do so unless reference to New England be such. Do the majority in it employ such markt deviations as to constitute dialect? If so, it wud be well to specify them categorically.—Ed.]

FRANCE—The *Fonetic Teacher* that we heralded on p. 57 has reacht us. It is printed in English with markt lettrs. Its use of lettr shapes is more in acord with French usage than ours. The paper is a mouth-piece for the Association of Teachers by *Fonetic Methods*. In other words they hav found that the best way to teach English and other tungs is the *sound* method and this is their organ. Altho this is its principal purpos, it sheds much light on problems of spelling by sound. Its editor is Prof. Paul Passy, 6, Rue Labordere, Neuilly sur Seine, a suburb of Paris, France. It appears monthly at a franc a year. Allowng for extra postage, we suppose it wud be sent here for 25 cents.

—The reason for preferng *E* for the vowel in *eel* is that it is an *i*-shape—other nations generally use *i* for the sound. Our second choice is *e*. We wud accept the latr wer it in general favor. *E* may be considerd an *e* shape also and be the more generally favord.

*Mortgage* is apparently a word of great uncertainty as to orthograpy judging by this list compiled from lettrs receivd by Western Canada Loan & Savings Co.

1. Morguage 9 Morgueage 16. Morgue
2. Morgeses 10. Mogueage 17 Morgeg
3. Morgigs 11. Mortgatge 18. Morchg
4. Morgage 12. Morctgage 19. Maroge
5. Mortage 13. Mortegage 20. Morage
6. Morgich 14. Martgag 21. Mortgig
7. Mortagw 15. Mortague 22. Morgoge
8. Mortgage.

[Toronto World.]

## LITERATURE.

A PRONOUNCING AND SPELLING DICTIONARY alphabetically aranged according to Webster's pronunciation, for scools and familis. Prepared by C. W. Knudsen and others. Golding Bros publishers, South Norwalk, Conn., xiv and 391 pages 12mo. Sent post-paid for \$1.

This volume, well printed with type of this size on good paper and bound in cloth, is an important addition to the literature of Simplification of Spelling. Got up by Prof. C. W. Knudsen of South Norwalk, Conn., assisted by ninety correspondents, it has been three years in progres. It may be had of Prof. K. or the publishers. It is evidently a work of one of strong convictions who has the courage of his convictions so as to embody them in hard type, an expensive process, and produce this neat book. If we no the pronunciation, the book will give the old spelling, the accent and syllabication. To indicate pronunciation a system is used which gives a very readable print—a system consistent and complete in three sizes of type. Script and italic forms too are furnished, besides a manual alphabet for the deaf and dumb. Deaf mutes are now comonly taught to read speech by watching the speaker's lips. We believe it will be found valuable in deaf-mute schools, a pupil having got a word by lip-motion indicating its sound may wish to learn the old spelling silent lettrs and all which this book will give.

The system is the same as in the author's *Mark* notist p. 32, but changed a litt for the bettr. Space forbids illustration and criticism until the future. We close by stating the alphabet: shade vowel in *earth* is represented by *ə* and the twelve standard vowels thus:

a' a e e' i' i e e' o' o u u'  
art atale ell eel it ox or ne us put do  
Diphthongs ar j (capital *J*) oi and ou,  
u is used for both yd u and yd u'. *Th* in *then* is distinguisht from *th* in *thin* by having *t* in the former crosst twice. If it wer used on the latr it wud mark the page les because much les frequent. Evry one interested in Orthograpy or in Alphabets shud secure the book.

WELLESLEY is a superabundance of lettrs for *Welsly*.

## SOING AND REPING.

So with a jenerus hand;  
 Poz not for toil and pan;  
 W<sup>ri</sup> not thru h<sup>et</sup> ov sumer,  
 W<sup>ri</sup> not thru cold spring ran  
 But wat til otum cumz,  
 With shevz ov goldn gran.

Then so: fer the ourz ar fl<sup>it</sup>in,  
 And the s<sup>ed</sup> must fol tu-d<sup>e</sup>;  
 Car not hwot handz shal rep it  
 Or if yu shal hav past awe  
 Befor' the wav<sup>in</sup> corn-feldz  
 Shal gladn the suni de.

ADELAID AN PROCTOR.

—S. R. A. wil meet at Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y., on 15 and 16 July.

—The so calld obscure vowel is wel represented by *æ*; but I think it easier to leav it out altogether. When a man says *button* he first pronounces *but*, and then simply ads a vocalic *n*, and the real word is *butn*. It is the caracter of the *n* that is alterd; insted of being a pure consonant, it is vocalized. Tho<sup>z</sup> who ar aquainted with the latest works on filology ritn in Germany ar aware that this *n* is distinctly recognized and denoted by a small circl beneath the letr. We need not mark it for all no how *n* is pronounst in such a position. I treat final *l*, *m*, *n* and *r* all alike, viz., leav out the obscure vowel before them. It wud not be imposibl to sho that this is perhaps more correct than any other way. I shud simply rite *botl*, *blosm*, *butn*, *butr* for *bottle*, *blossom*, *button*, *butter*. The conjunction of *tl*, *sm*, *tn*, *tr*, at once suggests that the preceding vowel is short. Such a form as *blosm* looks strange to the eye at first but any one who *attempts* to pronounce it wil giv the real sound. This is one way to cut the not. It wud save type and put an end to all squabls as to how to rep resent the 'obscure' vowel when found with *l*, *m*, *n*, and *r*, which is precisely where it most frequently ocurs.—*Prof. Skeat*, author *Etymologic Dictionary*.

## MG-S'ONG.

Wild flouerz in the medo,  
 Gras upon the le,  
 Litl stremlet flashing  
 Sunlit in its gle.

Babbling o'r its peblz,  
 Murmuring in its bed,  
 Az it stelz so slili  
 Hwar the shadoz spred.

Shadoz ov the branchez  
 Ov the grand old trez  
 With ther thouzand lef-tungr.  
 Lafing in the brez.

HER and thar the fles-cloudz  
 Floting up on hi;  
 HER and thar thru fles-cloudz  
 Fleks ov azyr ski.

Over ol, the sunlit,  
 In a goldn flud,  
 Delyujing with lif-pouer  
 Feld and flouer and wud.

Hwil the joi ov natyr  
 Filz the glorius de  
 With the vois ov gladnes,  
 Singing—"It iz Me!"

G. BRUCE.

## KEY TO SPELING BY SOUND.

Sound C A Q E F I I O O U U U  
 az in art at ale ell eel st l or ox no up put d<sup>o</sup>

—A versifier erroneously rimes "M. Thiers" with "appears." The name of the ex-President of France is properly pronounst "empty air." (M. Tiar.)

The FONETIC HERALD iz publisht monthly (except July and Aug.) It iz devoted to PRONUNCIATION, and to explaining and exemplifying the *simplicity* and *practicability* ov amending our ORTHOGRAPHY, so as tu epol by sound insted ov by *memory*. 25 cents a year.