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67-70

The Herald.

DEVOTED TO PRONUNCIATION AND AMENDED SPELLING.

VOL. II, 17.

TORONTO, CANADA, January, 1901.

NR. 67.

A TRANSATLANTIC VOICE.

I read THE HERALD with intense interest. I rejoice at your vigorous mental grip of problems, and that the lamp burns with clearness. (I enclose \$1 to supply oil). We have no other organ giving continuous exposition. Even the sons of fonography's inventor refuse discussion in their *Journal*. With a large fortune left them they have not their father's reforming spirit. Mr Drummond takes an active interest—too few others.

Your Platform is splendid as a general guide. I subscribe to every plank. Much of its essence is in a report to the Amer. Philologic Assoc'n, adopting which (moved by Dr Whitney) I seconded in Aug., 1876.

We have to reckon with bitter hostility from printers. Early printers aimed at the fonetic [approximately]. Spoken language has drifted [from Tudor wordforms]. We find letters not pronounced now still kept. Prune these dead, withered branches, itself a mighty reform. We must go farther: correct anomalies. For most of our forty sounds there is no difficulty: sound links to symbol automatically. Digraph consonants (ch, sh, th, ng, dh, zh) are thus provided. It was a great mistake in the 1847 alphabet not to give a, e, i, their values in *pat, pet, pit*. No one dreams of anything else now. The chief differences are as to symbols for vowels in *alms, ail, awl, eel, old, ooze, eider, feud*. Like the man mentioned in THE HERALD [July, '98, p. 4] we have looked everywhere for these symbols, and lo! we have them at hand in the language's web and woof. Fanciful notions about pairing vowels lead astray: notably 'haus' for *house*. This is "made in Germany." Pairing vowels and analyzing diphthongs are side issues but disturbing elements.

You have a grand mission to bring together scattered ideas into a focus of one or two plans well-baked to present them to educational authorities. "Oh, that will be joyful" when twentieth century children are spared inflictions of kakography, "all the people say, amen," and our language spread like wild-fire thru the world.

The English Sp'g Ref'm Ass'n did good work. About 100 schemes submitted it re-

duced to 7. Really the contest was between a scheme with and one without new letters. Ellis having burnt his fingers to the tune of many thousand pounds with matrices and new types gave up new letters with a blessing. Pitman stuck to them like grim death to the last, but he had in effect no following. There is no propaganda for his or any plan here. Among members of the Sp.R.As'n there was no educational enthusiasm, every man fighting for his own plan. So the society died, with little done since.

People say, "You are so divided." Could we not appeal to some individual authority, or, better, a joint commission of British-American linguists appointed by governments? Liverpool, Eng. E. JONES.

A SUGGESTION.

[Ch in Italian sounds k; e before e, i, sounds as ch in our word church.]

Italian recognises tsh as inherent in c. Thus, *Civita* is *Tshivita*, or nearly so; but *Vecchia*, coupled with *Civita* in the name of a well-known port, tho it has two c's and h, is sounded vek'kia. The tsh [tʃ] sound of c must have come down from respectable antiquity. H. J. Roby, M.A., in his excellent Latin grammar, while arguing strenuously against Max Müller and others that c in oldest Latin never sounds s, but always k, admits (p. liii) that, as early as 222 A.D., in Africa at least, the language of humanity admitted forms wherein c was t nearly. Greek, a fine language, has no c. Paul belonged to *Kilikia*, while some people were from *Kappadokia*. Roby insists that CICCERO, tho so writing his name, new himself only as KIKERO, and that CAESAR was no other than KAESAR, father of Kaisers. At any rate, this hardness gave way very early and c became associated with softer tʃ.

Our own forefathers too were sensitive to this association of c: the sturdy bo-man bent his bo and sped his *scaft*; Saxon ears caught the cleric's talk of *episkopos* [overseer from 'epi + skopeō] which he Latinized to *episcopus*. Short work our fathers made of these classic tails; they would not bother with them. As for e in front they appear not to have caught it, *Piscop* they made *biscep*, voicing first p and softening c by ad-

ing e. *Scaft* is now *shaft*; *bisceop* is now *bishop*. So *sciran* was Saxon for *share* or *sheer*. Thus c had then a sound almost sh.

Therefore it is no novelty in our loved tongue that I suggest: restrict c to tsh. We gain in brevity if we put "curc" for *church*. A "curl" would no longer nestle in a fair lady's neck: he would be answered according to his folly; but the innocent and pretty "kurl" would retain its place of honor and delight. There is difficulty in getting made moderate changes. This may be deemed revolutionary; but in these fast times brevity commends itself. If we can throughout wed accuracy to brevity we may sooner succeed in recommending a better because briefer way.

Ryton-on-Tyne, Eng. [Rev.] H. R. RAE.

[If Mr R's suggestion be taken, word-forms like these would appear in New Spelling:
 witch catch patch much churn chart cart
 wic kac pac muc curn cart kart
 cheap teach pitcher ditch match chamber
 cip tic picer dic mac camber]

OBITUARIES.

CHARLES COLLINS died at Dayton, Ohio, on 13th Oct., aged 88. He graduated with high honors at Hobart College, Geneva, N. Y., and was language tutor there for some time. His treatise on Latin orthoepy did much to have its continental method adopted in U. S. colleges.—*Phonog's Magazine*. In sp. reform for which he wrote numerous articles he was a moderate, holding that ten vowel signs were enough with six digraph consonants, tho not quite the usual six.

Right Hon. Prof. MAX MÜLLER died at Oxford, Eng., on 28th Oct., aged 77. For fuller obituary notice readers are referred to other journals. Three times since 1850 linguists have essayed alphabetic problems: (1) that in the early fifties when Müller with Lepsius and Chevalier Bunsen were leading spirits; (2) that by British-American filologists, 1876 to 1883, when Joint Rules were agreed to; (3) the present one by the International Phonetic Assoc'n. While all three were on orthoepy-phonetic lines mainly, the alphabetarian has much to learn to harmonize in their results. In Müller's lectures at the Royal Institution, 1861-4, constituting his two-volume *Lectures on the Science of Language*, he demonstrated and put phonetics as a basis for linguistics:

"I have sometimes been blamed for having insisted on Phonetics being recognized as the foundation of the Science of Language. Prof. Benfey and other scholars protested against the chapter on phonetics in my "Lectures," as an unnecessary innovation, and protests have become stronger of late. But here, we must distinguish between two things. Filologic or General Phonetics are, I hold as strongly as ever, an integral part of the Science of Language; Dialectal Phonetics may be useful here and there, but they should be kept within their proper sphere; otherwise, I admit as readily

as any one else, they obscure rather than reveal the broad and massive colors of sound which language uses for its ordinary work."—On Spelling.

Before this revolution in filology which he heralded early, dead letters, symbols, were considered the elements of language. No, or very little, attention was paid to actual speech phenomena, the living soul of these dead symbols. For better word-forms after decided endorsement of their necessity:

"In 1857 he first became associated with the reform of English spelling, accepting the position—with Pitman, Ellis and others—of adjudicators of essays on spelling reform for which Sir Walter Trevelyan offered valuable prizes. He wrote a letter to Sir Isaac Pitman indicating great interest in the phonetic movement, and saying that reformed spelling was sure to be bro't about ultimately. It led to a long correspondence and personal friendship, terminated only by Pitman's death. . . . On Trevelyan's death in 1879, Prof. M. became president of the Phonetic Society. . . . A most important contribution was his article On Spelling (*Fortnightly Review*, April, 1876) appearing in successive editions of his 'Chips from a German Workshop.'"—Pitman's Journal.

NEWS-NOTES AND COMMENTS.

—The customary guinea was paid lately to a Toronto gentleman who pointed out a misprint of "cut" for "out" in an edition of the bible printed at the Clarendon press, Oxford.—Moral, c is faulty because so liable to be mistaken for o, which typesetters confirm. Is it wise to add a differential to the group c, e, o (too much alike already)? That increases liability to misprints.

—Divergence of pronunciation causes alarm. Some Americans glory that they do not speak with a "British accent." It would be a calamity were this carried farther, for a link binding the Anglo-Saxon race wherever found would be seriously weakened. Unity of our language is imperiled at home as well as abroad. The cheap and rapid traveling tends to assimilate pronunciation even among educated men, hardly two speakers will sound every word alike. The reason for this (want of uniformity) is lack of a recognized standard. A vivacious American lady inquired in a London contemporary what was the authority for English pronunciation. Her question has remained unanswered.—*Liverpool Mercury*.

—Our namesake, *Præco Latinius* (The Latin Herald), published at 1520 Spring Garden st., Philadelphia, Pa., 16 pages monthly, \$1 a year, is printed throughout in Latin, without use of j, but with u. It holds that the world has still in Latin a universal language.

—The Cree Indians have a syllabary (invented by James Evans) instead of an alphabet. It is so simple that Crees learn to read in a week. A Cree translation of Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress* has just been printed in Toronto for their use.

—"Spelling Reform by Dr E. B. Andrews, Chancellor of the University of Nebraska, and late Superintendent of Public Schools in Chicago" is the title of an article of five pages in the *Junior Munsey* magazine for October—a strong article that gives us 'the progress and prospects of the movement to simplify English orthography and the practical benefits it promises.' The editor says: "Dr Andrews, who is one of the best known of American educationalists, favors reform as thorough and speedy as is practicable. He favors it because it promises real and substantial benefits. For instance, measured in money, the annual saving to the public school system of a city like Chicago would be at least \$300,000. In this article—

in which tho, thoro, and other words ar speld as Dr Andrews rote them—he points out the progres the movement has alredy made, in spite of conservativs on one hand and fadists on the other, and shows weaknes of many arguments popularly uzed against it. Andrews says (page 134): "Remembering the via dolorosa of reforms in genral and the ruf riding which this reform in particular has had to encounter, one must pronounce its victories in recent years fairly satisfactory."

—Dropping ue from *demagogy* and like words comends itself to some printers. Mr Boss rites from Chicago that three ofices in which he reads proof now direct omision of this ue. Mr B. thinks the time more favorabl for propagandism than at any time within twenty years.

—The American Dialect Soc'y publisht nothing for three years til last sumer when "College Words and Phrases" by E. H. Babbit, 70 pp. 8vo, apeard. The English Dialect Society puts forth yearly two parts of its new Dialect Dict'y.

—*A New Dictionary of Americanisms* is not only projected but collection and arrangement of material is about finisht. Publication next sumer is expected as a volume of 700 pages with complete analytical apendix and all principal words clast anew. Ther is an abundance of real Americanisms, that is, new words coind in Canada and the United States. Words obsolete (like Chaucer's 'ges) in Britan, or found only in remote corners, stil liv here in ful blast. Again new words hav come from the aborigines, Dutch, French, Spanish and other settlers. Ther is need and ther shud be room for such a work more ful and recent than those of Bartlet, Farmer or De Vere, especialy as dialect words and uzages existing in America and not in England, whether survivals of old uzages or of American origin, ar not apearing in the Eng. Dialect Diction'y at all. The price is \$5 but immediat subscribers ar to hav it postpaid for \$4 c. o. d. Specimen pages ar furnisht by its editor, Sylva Clapin, 21 Charlotte st., Worcester, Massachusetts.

LITERATURE.

A PAPER ON ENGLISH SPELLING red before the Chicago Society of Proofreaders by George D. Broomell. 27 pages 12mo. Ben Franklin Company, 232 Irving av., Chicago, Ill. Price, 10 cents, \$5 a hundred.

A FONETIC PRIMER by T. B. Welch, M.D., 5919 Woodbine av., Philadelphia, Pa. 42 pages 16mo. 15 cents.

Broomell's paper is a wel printed, lucid and ful exposition of the irregularities and absurdities of comon speling. It and Dr Andrews articl in the *Junior Munsey* ar both forceful and logical statements of our case, the best that hav apeard of late. The question now is how to circulate such so that they shal do their work. We hav secured over thirty copies, some of which ar placed in reading-rooms, others markt "Read! pas it on! recording yur name" on the cover, for which ther is room, shud secure a wide circl of readers. It is a call to the unconverted, who ar yet many.—A tool for yu, reader, to *work* with and sho that yu ar not of those who but shout for others to do something.

Welch's *Primer* is a combined primer and introduction to his system of which a specimen was givn on p. 59. Its pages ar

wel printed and sho words of three sylls. An u of horsshoe shape is uzed for the vowel in *put* with u for that in *but*—a fundamental eror which Candy did not comit in uzing horsshoe u. Markt w is uzed for voiceles w (our m) as in *when*, its author apearing (for no explanation is givn) to hold that m be chosen (it's mater of choice) insted of h+w. We ar at a los to no how its author gets a in *genitive* or i in *obstacle*, while "clöz" for *clothes* favors slurd colloquial. In 1847 Dr Comstock in this same Philadelfia bro't out a *New Testament* in fonetic dres. Dr Welch may go on to do as much, but *cui bono* unles joining co-laborers he helps them to develop fundamental principls on which to bild? We hav had quite enuf of "hatching one scheme after another" during haf of last century and "must try something els."

CORRESPONDENCE.

POETIC RHYTHM HELPT BY SPELLING.

SIR: I agree with what yu say on p. 63 that speling shud help meter. In poetry let us not surrender to soulles printers.—Preserv something of its esence. Pope's rendering of Homer stil leads the field—largely thru this. ExAMPL (*Iliad*, b'k i):
Black choler fill'd his breast that boil'd with ire;
And from his eye-balls flash'd the living fire.
Augur accurs'd! 131

The forms fill'd, boil'd, flash'd, accurs'd, ar a haf-way hous to fild, boild, flasht, acurst. Preserv the few remnants of an age when sound and word wer joint.

London, Ont.

J. GRANT.

[Andrews (*Junior Munsey*, Oct.) says: "The study of great poets helps this movement, for, from Homer down, great poets hav with much boldnes [the litl felos dare not, afraid of losing cast] trimd the dres of wrods to suit sound and sens."—Page 134.]

SIR ISAAC PITMAN.

[The last of twenty stanzas on his deth.]

Then did he fail? Shal eror stil abound,
And chek the progres of our youthful race?
Forever shal false speling hold its ground,
And blot our noble language with disgrace?

The faithles may so dream, but not the wise,
For truth is great, and shal at last prevail;
Old forms shal vanish, purer laws arise,
And future bards recount the welcome tale.

But who wil lead the van and face the fo?
Who wears the mantle of the mighty-ded?
Achilles where, to strike the fatal blo
At consecrated Custom's hydra-hed?

What chief of state wil plead the children's caus,
And lift in part the burden of their toil?
What lerned Body point to saner laws,
And free our comou reason from recoil?

This stumbling-blok removed, fresh force wil gain
The stream of Nolegde, wider stretch its shore;
Sublimier hights the native mind atain,
And shameful Ignorance be seen no more.

Bilston, Eng.

DAVID BAILEY.

WORD-REGISTER.

[A dash (—) means, same as the preceding.]
[..... means, infer from the preceding.]

OLD SPELLING REVIZED	NEW SPELLING ORTHOGRAFY	COSMOPOLITAN ORTHOEPEY
Canada*	
Dunsinan(e)†	Dunsin'an	dən-sin'an.
Leipscic	laip'sic†	
Leipzig	laip'tsi:k†	
thrash	—	bræf, præf§

*In hurrid speech *Canada* is cæn'æ.dæ. but in speech a litl more leisurely cæn'æ dæ. is herd (where æ is put for weak æ). Such use of æ seems useful and necessary, and we purposo to employ it in future (in orthoepy-fonetics only, not in New Speling which wil not tolerate turnd leters). Pronunciation is inferd from orthograpy (*Canada*) by bearing in mind two establisht linguistic habits of our language: (1) a strong tendency to put hevly stres on first sylabl; (2) the first a has a singl consonant between it and the next foloing vowel and so sounds æ like a in cat, caterpillar—a rule stated and more fully exemplified on p. 49 and which is fairly sweeping in its aplication to determin æ in such case.

†Shakspear (in *Macbeth*) uzes this word. From his meter it is plain that he ment the last sylabl to hav strong stres—a mistake to which comentaters hav call'd attention. With Shakspear it appears to hav been a bookword, borod from Holinshed from whose records he took most of his history. Ford on p. 40 of his "Tayside Songs" (Gardner, Paisley and London, 1895) says that Dunsinane is "locally pronounced Dunsinnan," and this speling (with dubl n) and orthoepy he proceeds to adopt in his anapestic mesure, as in 'In the woods an' the glades o' Dunsinnan again.' This use of dubl n to mark stres on the second sylabl is quite remarkabl. Otherwise one wud put strong stres on the first (see *Canada* above). In New Speling we ar drivn to adopt a dubl consonant now and then (exceptionaly, like Spanish) or els must resort (in Scool Orthograpy only) to shoing stres in uncomon place (Dunsin'an).

‡According to the U. S. Board on Geographic Names, Leipzig is the capital of Saxony; while Leipsic is a river in Kent co, Delaware. Establisht difrences in speling prevent confusion.

§Both *thrash* and *thresh* ar in good use. Among those uzing it most frequently in actual speech and not as a bookword an overwhelming majority say thræsh. For this reason it appears beter to abolish the speling thresh.

* * * * *

WORD-LISTS.

[Our Word-Register is a machine thru which all words shud be run, with necessary coments—space forbids. A fixt New Speling presuposes ful word-lists. Accordingly we begin such, giving only words involving principls already considerd. New Speling word-forms ar in larger type.]

advance	avenue	calico	colonel	comfort
advan	aveniu	"	curnel	cumfort
cuntry	cot	coat	caut	cavity
cuntri	"	cōt	cūt	caviti
				fiutiuriti
governer	Hoboken	incision	isolate	jan-
gouverner	Hobōken	insizion	isolat	jan-
dice	kernel	later	latter	ligature
dis	"	later	later	ligatiur
money	monetary	movement	shalo	shado
muni	munitari	mūvmnt	"	"
spasm	sing	singe	stomac	scool
spazm	"	sinj	stumac	scūl
			skul	shew
			skul	sho

smoother	shufl	shutl	solicit	superstition
smuðer	shufl	shutl	solis'it	superstision
superficial	sullen	siv	since	sins
superfisial	sulen	"	sins	sinz
subjectiv	tabular	talent	talo	throat
subjectiv	tabyular	"	"	thrōt
Tibet	tooth	torture	troop	tropic
"	tūth	tortiuur	trūp	"
union	onion	nsefulness	utterly	victual
yunion	yunion	yūsfulness	uterli	viti

ENGLISH IN THE ORIENT.

English-speaking peopl hav a great advantage in China now becaus their language is popular in Asia, and more uzed than any other foren tung. This advantage shud be folod up by making it stil more adaptabl to needs of nativs. Presnt popularity is due to circumstances. Britan controls India, and when they found their way to China ahed of other European nations they bro't their language. It is not easy to lern. Chinese ar not slo in lerning, but it is not right that unnecessary obstacls be placed in their path. I am not partial to English. It is evidently here to stay. It may be call'd already the oriental comercial language. In all treaty-ports and important centers it holds a place in scool and counting-house which no other language can claim. Spoken in the streets of Shanghai, taut in the scools of Yokohama, it has obtaind such vogue that merchants of all other nations resident in the east uze it in busines and in their families. If ther is to be any international language, it wil be English, and therefore I say it o't to be improved to facilitate lerning it.

A hole language cannot be sudnly reformd. Changes must be of slo growth. Ther is one respect, speling, in which improvement can be without violence to idiom or construction. If fonetic speling is adopted, it wud bles those with whom English is not a habit, and who find ourselvs continually triping and stumbling over words not sounding as they appear to the eye. It wud be worth while to change. Americans, I find, acomplish many results by meeting and discusing question. Why wud it not be posibl to hav a great convention, with object to bring speling to conform more closely to sound?—Chinese Minister in *Ainslee's Magazine*.

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For fuler explanation and Platform see cover of Annual of New Speling (postpaid, ten cents).