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# The Fonetic Herald

DEVOTED TO PRONUNCIATION AND REVISED SPELLING.

2<sup>ND</sup> YER.      PORT HOPE, CANADA, ME, 1886.      N<sup>R</sup>. 15.

**TORONTO.**—Mr W. Houston, M. A., bro t before Canadian Institute a resolution to appoint Messrs Boyle, Browning, Shaw and himself a comitee to asertain and report what steps had been taken by Governments Universitis. Coleges and Larned Societis to secure general introduction of a more simpl Speling. Mr H. had presented his views on this in other places. As a rule, speling in a more logical and simpl maner was apoved by teachers and those familiar with the subject. This reform wud revolutionize speling in about 10,000 words or 5000 of those constantly used, without greatly changing their appearance. Mr Browning in seconding tho't it did not go far enuf. He preferd the Inst. taking more activ part. Dr Casidy said he had alredy gon to trubl of lerning to spel and did not wish to lern over again. In reading works of great riters he was acquainted with their tho'ts as presented in certan speling and change of that wud to great extent mar effect of tho'ts. He wud prefer the motion tabled. Dr C. alone oposed it. After Dr Workman, Messrs Livingstone, Ker, Dale and others had express themselves in its favor the resolution was carid.—*World*. [The Can. Inst. is a scientific body long establishd. It champions the 24 our movement. A like motion at last meeting of Univ. Toronto Senat was ruled out of order—'an African in the fence.']

**FRANCE.**—The Asoc'n of teachers by fonetic methods determin to start a monthly the size of H LD printed holely in a 36 letr alfa' to be calld the *Fonetic Teacher*. It wul be in English they find the best way to teach our language is by the sound method. Ther ar signs of progres for French too. A German bookseler, Henninger in

Heilb'onn, is publishing two books of fonetic French one by Mons. F. Franke the other by Prof P. Passy. A noteworthy thing is he not only pays cost of publishing but the authors for their work. He rekons on a large sale.

*Sara* is now fashionabl for *Sarah*. Did Sara Bernhardt set the fashon?

—'AITY-ATE' dolars was the amount calld for by a chek presented recently at the Catskil (N. Y.) National Bank.

—*Misionaris* desiring literature of Revision of Speling for distribution o't to send us 25 cts. for a large parcel of bak numbers. We wil send thoz of any particular issue if requested—so far as we hav them.

**QUANTITY & QUALITY.**—Prof. P. Passy rites from Paris, France, "After much tho't and study I hav come to yur opinion that *quality* only shud be indicated by shapes of letrs. Distinguish *quantity* when necessary by diacritics."

**ES** In *weight* 6 letrs represent 3 sounds indicated by w a t. So ther ar in *tough* 5 letrs for 3 sounds, tuf, in *caught*, 6            3            c a t. in *weave*, 5            3            w e v. altogether 22            12

—*Andrew McNally*, of the printing hous of Rand, McNally & Co., Chicago, says: "I hav workt in all branches of printing and no the worry, vexation, cost and delay caused by silent letrs and bad speling. Any system that leavs out all silent letrs must be of imens, almost mesurles, value to printers and book-makers; a vast relief to the peopl by reducing the cost of education; and a blessing to children by making aquisition of the elementary branches easy, rapid and agreeabl."

## VOWEL SOUNDS &amp; VOWEL LETRS.

By ELIZA B. BURNZ, New York

The first article in *HERALD* for Feb. interested me. Mr. Gholson has discovered, perhaps rediscovered, the true nature of those vowel sounds heretofore styled diphthongs. They are not a union of two simple vowels - an impossibility - but sounds emitted while the organs of speech change from the position for one simple vowel to that for another. The term 'Glide Vowel' is therefore more appropriate than 'diphthong'. The exact number of Eng. vowels is yet unsettled, but it will now be easier to classify such vowel sounds as orthoepists admit to be distinct. All may be classed as Simple Short, Simple Long, or Glide Vowels.

*Simple Short Vowels* are free sounds uttered quickly while the organs of speech are in a fixed position. The vowels of this class are *i* in *pin*, *e* in *pen*, *a* in *pan*, *o* in *not*, *u* in *nut*, *ü* in *put*. True, with some individuals and in some localities these Short or stopt vowels become lengthened or drawn out; but they are susceptible of a short, crisp utterance which can not be given to other vowels. The *Simple Long Vowels* are made while the organs of speech are in a fixed position, and the sounds, if not essentially long, may be prolonged without producing a sense of incorrect pronunciation. Try *beet* with *bit*; *naught* with *not*; *pool* with *pull*. The *Simple Long Vowels* are *ah* in *bar*, *aw* in *ball*, *ee* in *beet*, *oo* in *boom*; and to these must be added *uh* in *burr* - altho *uh* occurs before *r* only - and *o* as heard in New England pronunciation of *whole*, *stone*, and some other monosyllables, but also heard when *o* is unaccented, as in the first syllable of *propose*, *polemics*, etc. The *Glide Vowels* are *i*, *oi*, *ow*, *ew*, also *a* in *fail*, *a* in *fair* and *o* in *oat*. The glide in *i* is from almost any open or medial vowel, *ah*, *ü* or even *ö* to the close vowel *i*. *Oi* glides from *aw* to *i*. *Ow* from *ah* to *u* in *put* - not from *o* in *oat* to *u* in *put*, as stated p. 45. *Ew* begins with *i* and ends with *oo*, *a* in *fail* begins with *e* and closes on *i*; *a* in *fair* begins on *ä* or *ë* and glides to *ü* in *up*; *oh* begins with pure unaccented *o*, heard in the first syllable of *propose*, and glides towards *oo*, but does not include *oo*. The vowels noted stand thus:

SIMPL	{	a	o	e	u	i	u
SHORT V.	{	oat	oat	pet	cut	pit	put

SIMPL	{	ah	aw	o	uh	ee	oo
LONG V.	{	jar	jaw	whole	fur	feel	fool
GLIDE	{	i	oi	ow	ew	a	a
VOWELS	{	file	foil	fowl	few	fate	fair

I do not consider any of the above mentioned to be "Shade Vowels;" nevertheless it may not be necessary to distinguish by different letters the *o* in *whole* from the *o* in *oat*; or the *u* in *cut* from the *u* in *cut*; or the *a* in *fair* from the *a* in *fate*. Phoneticians are divided upon this point, and I think none but individual decisions can be arrived at, until the ears of people generally have been cultivated to discriminate sounds with much greater exactness than now. My experience during thirty years of teaching fonetic print, is that children discriminate sounds easily; and I would rather teach them with an alphabet which denoted all recognizable vowel sounds, than with one which provided signs for only a part, leaving the remainder to be guessed at; especially if I desired to teach exact and correct pronunciation.

With other teachers of fonography, I find it very difficult to get pupils to appreciate the difference between *ah* and *o* in *oat*. In N. York, the pronunciation of such words as *not*, *what*, *was*, is *naht*, *hwah*, *wahz*; the *ah* being cut short; and so when teaching Fonetic Short-hand, rather than delay, I let students vocalize in accordance with their own pronunciation.

Another point: Teachers in public schools have frequently consulted me as to the real vowel sound in *God* and *dog*. To cut the *o* short in pronouncing *God* as they do in *rod*, seems to them irreverent, while they do not consider *God* in good taste. "Now," say they, "what is the true vowel sound?" I told them, the quality of the vowel is *aw*, but that the sound should be made shorter than when pronouncing the word *Maud*. This shortened *aw*, required for *God*, is, I think, no more uncertain a sound than the shortend *ah* in *ask* and *pass*, as uttered by persons who do not say *ask* and *pass*, the latter being the more common pronunciation.

Again; in such words as *Lord* and *cord*, can we say that the vowel sound is that of *o* short as in *lot*? The sound is as truly *aw* in *lord* as in *law*; and in an exact fonetic print both must have the same representation. For the present we dispose of the perplexity by calling the sound of *r* when following a vowel, a "corrupting influence;" for it is a fact that the *r* element is frequently present when any peculiar difficulty arises in determining the proper vowel sound, or vowel letter to be used. But a distinct sound is no less when it occurs before a particular consonant, as the *aw* sound in *lord* (*soft*, *broth*, *cross*, etc., or other illustrations); or when it is heard only before one certain consonant, as *u* in *urn*, which sound occurs only before *r*. The *a* in *fair* also occurs only before *r*, unless drawn out *ä*, heard among natives of the Southern States in their pronunciation of *past*, *ask*, *basket*, (*paast*, *aask*, *baasket*), etc., is considered the vowel in *fair*. To my ear it is the same, minus the glide towards *r* which cannot be avoided in uttering *pair*, *care*, *their*, etc.

—Mr S. CLARE writes from Toronto that he would not like to see an alphabet of S. R. A. adopted—he is not alone.

### THAT \$50 000 BIL.

HOUS Bil 303 proposes to appropriate \$50 000 to TEST AND TRY the Science of Speling for a year in a scool in Chicago where all street car lines converge so that evrybody can visit it day or even ing. 100 children and 7 teachers after being traindr ar to be employd and paid to spel, rite, use, aply and handl the same and continue doing so for a year in a room large enuf to seat 1000 visitors. The Bil has been red twice in the Hous of Representatives and referd to a comitee of *thirteen* members and by them referd to a subcomitee of *four* by whom it is now being considerd. I spent thirty days at the Capitol, using blak board and charts, demonstrating to the comitee the simplicity, acuracy and great yutility of the Science. The gentlemen of both comitees lisnd atently. I am satisfied that a majority of them think favorably of the Bil and wil soon report it bak to the ful comitee who wil then report it bak to Hous of Representatives for pasage. I apeard before the Senat comitee also and am asured ther wil be litl trubl in pasing it thru both Houses. It must wait its turn which I think wil come erly. It wil then become law. This wil giv the Science of Speling national sanction after which it wil go on its own wel-atested merits.

The comitee and evrybody els understands that wise men, deep thinkers, ripe scolars, in fact anybody interested shal hav chance to visit the scool, see, hear, examin, and offer sugestions for improvement, to becarefully considerd. If a betr form be proposed for any letr, one more easily or rapidly ritn by the children themselves, it wil be changed; if we need another letr it shal be aded, if one is not needed it shal be erased. We shal hav by a year's end if not al redy, a plain, simpl, easy and complete alfabet and a system of speling [*approximately*] perfect which yung children can redily lern and aply to all words of all languages and hav the same tested by a year's practice and experience. Chicago, 5 May. CHAS. A. STORV.

*SHAKESPERE* is comonly printed in modern speling and in modern type. This is not done with other old worthis

like Spenser or Chaucer in which a fair atempt is made to folow the original orthografy. As to typografy they ar mostly put in a garb calld by printers 'modernized old style, now much used in books. Yu can find sampl at p. 14. Such old style is but an approach to a *facsimile*. Ther ar several *facsimile* editions of the 1623 quarto. The New Shakspeare Society has in hand an Old-Speling edition of Shakespere. This wil render the original orthografy more redily accesibl. It is very desirabl to hav a general restoration of such old Tudor and Stuart spelings as ar particularly good. Shakespere and Milton furnish exampls in multitude in works esteemd classic and so familar. This is very important.

—*Mr H. M. Clark* rites from Margaretsvil, N. S.: "I hav been waching the movement for some years and now wish to take a more activ part—to become a worker. Yu may expect ocasional orders for copis for distribution as I intend to travel thru varius parts of this province this sumer."

Revision of Speling has been injurd and retarded by ansrs that ar premature; by foreclosure of questions which shud hav been left open. Nobody shud expect to hav accepted an elaborat system of oracular dogmas which ring holow to the nok of critical inquiry. "The comon sens of most" must endors what wil stand.

*Mr H. H. McCaig*, Wingham, Ont., rites Bengof's *Shorthander*, Toronto, to the effect that he voz from years of experience in teaching what a benefit it wud be to hav Speling by Sound so as to render needles the laborus task of lerning by hart such multitudes of word-forms. He hopes to see the Ont. Parliament move in the matr.

*WHY* ar our terms so framed as to multipl copis? In order that anybody so disposed can hav at cheap rate a few for distribution. Individualism—very rampant in our day—prompts each to selfish motivs only. Hence not many take advantage of our offerd terms, not enuf anyway. Recolect yur neighbor as wel as self. *Markt* paragraphs ar sure to receiv attention.

## LITERATURE.

PHONE TEACHER for 1880 \$1. 82. one volume bound in boards. \$1.65.

GOSPEL BY MATTHEW printed in International Alphabet. 1883. cloth. 50 c.

The *Phonetic Teacher* was issued as a monthly for three years which bound makes a vol. of over 300 pages quarto. Its publication ceased in 1883. It is a treasury of much that appertains to the Revision of Spelling especially from an American standpoint. It shud be pos-est by evry one who considers the many points involvd in the general question. Its object was largely experimental as to alphabets and radically so. It was also misionary and newsy. Of the scientific work of its editor the *Internat'l Alphabet* was the outcome or conclusion to that time. Acordingly, the *Matthew* givs a comital on many points involvd. It has 69 large pages wel printed from new type specially cast we suppose. An appendix of xvi other pages treats of vocal sounds their mode of production and kindred subjects. It deserves attention as the work of an earnest advocat who has givn much tho't and trial to most fases. We aproach and examin it as such. *C* and *k* ar used as equiv- alents. 24 consonants ar distinguisht by 18 old leters and these 6 new ones:

θ t̄ h̄ k̄ j̄ ŋ

θine θin θin shin vision sing  
Sin vision, or French *j*, has a *j* shape. That for *ch* may be held as *ch* conjoind. It is probabl that a *c*-shape wil merit adoption for this sound. The shape givn above is used in German *Reform* for the gutural in Ger. *nach*, Scottish *loch*. It appears betr to resign the shape to them for that sound. The diphthongs *I*, *oi*, *ou*, ar each represented by 2 leters. 12 vowels ar distinguisht thus

a a a e e i o o u u u  
art at ell eel it or ox no up put do  
We shal speak of the shapes for *o* in *or* and *o* in *do* as indented *o* and *u*. The shape for vowel of *eel* is ie conjoind in Siamese twin fashion - too hermafrodite to be acceptabl. We hav not found it in use since '83. Altho holdng that the sound shud hav a let of *i* shape in any international alfabet we cud hardly favor this one. Time wil giv a betr. Chapter xxv, vers 8, reads

And θi fulik sed untu θi  
waiz, Giv us øv yur øil; sør  
aur lamps ar goin out.

We wud expect oil for oil. This we cannot interpret otherwise than equal to a confession that indented *o* is a bad shape when its legitimat use is shund so. We no of no one using *o* but shirks it more or les. Pitman, for exampl, goes so far as to put 'wor for *wor* in place of 'vor, and this not in an isolated word but by the hundreds.

Most of those who aproach alphabets make use of *u*. As it is not used here it is interesting to observe how certain difficultis ar met. If *v*, in *ooze* be *yd* and begin a word the *y* is exprest. In mid word, *y* is changed to *i* and *u*, as in *put*. is used where we wud expect an indented *u* - a bad shape shrkt, thus: yunue, ciubit, hiun, rebiukt. Pitman chooses *u* for *v*. in *ooze*. When such becomes *yd* is it exprest by *yu*? O no! *Iu* is chosen, *u* being his choice for the *put* vowel! This *iu* is also made do duty for two sounds *yd u* and *yd u*. In *Matthew* the latr difficulty is met thus: If *v*, in *put* be *yd*, the *y* is comonly exprest. If *t* (or *d*?) precede *yd u* or *u* a certain variety of pronunciation is givn: valyu, stat'ur, pera lvenfiur, sançhueri, scripfiur, cweshun.

Expletiv *there*, adverb *there* and pronoun *their* hav the same vowel *a*, and it too is used in words like *careful*, as  
And θe went θar wæ. Þrar,  
cauful, bar (bear), har (hair).

Is it not wel to allow *æ* to represent this vowel at least temporarily until its quality is setld? Exampl, *cærful*.

We hav examind it from an alphabetic standpoint. We wish space permitted examination from an orthoepic one as evry page brils with points of pronunciation, ofn questionabl mostly commendabl. The reader shud get both the *Teacher* and *Matthew* and study them. He wil then no more orthoepy than before. Both ar edited and publisht by T.R. Vickroy, Ph. D., 2933 Dickson Street, St. Louis, Mo. Our readers ar privileged to get *Matthew* at haf price until July -- a slauter price considering the expens of new types. Get both.