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# The Herald.

DEVOTED TO PRONUNCIATION AND AMENDED SPELLING.

5th YEAR.

TORONTO, CANADA, April, 1889.

N<sup>o</sup>. 44.

**CURRENT LITERATURE.**—The *Forum* for Dec. has an article by March on the "Reign of Law in Spelling." It is popular in character, not pretending to make advances in our noledg, pleads that Law, or regularity, be allowed to prevail in sp. as elsewhere, instead of present caos. As a first step it urges that the better of two current spellings be chosen and used, such choice not to be by caprice but by rule or law. If the article does not lay down principles necessary to guide us in this selection, it gives a list of individuals favorabl to amendment of sp. This jingl of names the same riter has givn in *Chautauquan* for June, '87. Like letters of introduction and recommendations generally, we believe such usesles in America. The publication of such names in Canada, ofn givn, has amounted to littl. Authority goes for littl in cis-atlantic circles. In the *Century* for March is an editorial on "The English Lang. in America" giving certn facts and views as to what our trans-atlantic speakers comonly sneer at as the "Great American Lang." with its "Americanisms," forgetting that as a rule such ar largely survivals here of what has died out there. The *Century* shows that on this side is a soil on which *Simplific'n of Spelling* is likely to gro, because that and much els is "in the air" here; while there (even in the Filologic Society's new dictionary) "practically its influence is in favor of most conservativ and certnly obsolete spelling." That is good! In the current fasciculus, dated Oct. 1888, of the *Proceedings of the Canadian Institute* will be found an illustrated article of 30 pages by T. B. Browning, M.A., on "Elocutionary Drill" in which ther is a good deal said about spelling and vowel-acoustics, with some mater introductory to fixing standard vowels by means of tuning-forks and metal resonators. In the same number is "A Contribution to the study of the Franco-Canadian Dialect" by J. Squair, B. A. Mr. S. has givn wordlists made by actual observation at Ste Anne de Beaupre, near Quebec City. Sound-shifting has been going on with efect that Quebec French and that of Paris hav drifted asunder. Quebec French is therefore not standard. The article is of much interest in Comparativ Filology.

\*REVISED SPELLING:— OMIT usesles loters; CHANGE *d* to *t*, *gh* to *f*, *ght* to *f*, *tch* to *tsh*, if sounded so

## UNITE AND AGREE.

We shud not fail but thru our own divisions, and this faith inspires us with hope. Let us giv up the vain desire for absolute perfection of fonetics of visibl speech, so fasinating to students of Melvil Bell; content with moderat changes carid out at once by present printing apparatus; let our watsh-word be "Union," and we shal win. \* \* \* Let us form agresiv partis, and cut into the falanx of officialism; let leading filologists and teachers leag together and atak the spelling idol, and at last he wil be carted away. Then Kintergarten children wil lern a real system of fonetics, and reading wil ceas to be a trubl; then elder children wil translate sounds from one language to another, and boys and girls no longer uter the French of Stratford atte Bowe; then wil a tru and realy scientific filology become possibl, not for the few only, but for all who have been saved from stupefying waste of time involvd in repeating for ever in riting the follis of English conventional spelling.—D. BEAL in *Journal of Education*

The chief difficulty in way of introducing a reform that nearly all scolars agree to recomend as desirabl is impossibility at present, of uniting on any practicabl system. It is certnly not desirabl to change the present system for haf a dozen others; one general system in Britan and another in this cuntry, wud be confusion wors confounded. Reform shud come by gradual development as it has come with German, Italian and other languages. If ritters and printers of these languages had set their faces resolutely against all changes of spelling, as do English critics of American beginings at sp. reform, ther wud have been no reform there probably. A general tendency to simplified sp. shud be welcomed, not resisted, with this modification, that reform must be by comon consent, an evolution and not an arbitrary and artificial system, one may accept as good doctrin Prof. Swing's dictum: "The human race that wil from deliberat choice spel program programme, and tistic phthisic, and, when its folly is pointed to, proceeds to affirm that it prefers the long way, shud be compelled to go bak to canal-boats, pak-horses, dipt candls and sermons two ours long. Progres is a universal movement in all things."—*Boston Evening Transcript*.

NOTES ON PRONUNCIATION.

GRAY'S ELEGY (continued).

The ploughman homeward plods his weary way,  
*Homeward* is homeward. In it, o is close o. In New England they hav an o which exaggerations (and most representations of dialectic speech ar exaggerations) giv as u. Thus, for *at home* yu wil be told that they say "tu hum" or "tə hum" and that *the whole* is "ðə hul." The scolarly Lowel, in the *Biglow Papers*, givs "hum" with evident intention to indicate "hum." Others appear to teach that this is r ut v but haf-oppn o, midway between o and ø. Whitney distinguishes it from u, saying:—

"In regular and authorized pronunciation ther is no such thing, in accented syllabls, as tru short o. The sound, however, is a wel-recognized element of New England uterance, in a very small number of words—whether and how far outside of New Eng. and its colonis, and whether at all among the educated on the other side of the ocean, I canot say. By it, *none* is perfectly distinguisht from *known*, and *whole* from *hole*, as is *full* from *foot*, and *sin* from *seen*; and in these two words (the *none* is ofn pronounced like *nun*, even in New England) the sound in question most clearly and frequently appears. The list of words in which it is givn varies, I think, not a litl in diferent individuals: in my own practice, it is nearly or quite restricted to *none, whole, home, stone, smoke, folks, coat, cloak, lead, throat*; I hav herd most ofn from others, in addition, *bone* and *boat*. . . . . Much as orthoepists may discard and stigmatize this sound, a fonologist can hardly help wishing wel in his secret hart to a tendency which wud reliev the spokn alfabet of such an anomaly and reproach as absence of a tru short o."—*Or. & Ling. Studies*, 2d Series, Part 8, §10.

We ar satisfied that we hav herd it from nativs of Cornwall and Devon. For information on this point and much els we patiently wait for 5th part of Ellis on *Pronunciation*. Is not the sound in question one imported by Puritans who setld New Eng.? Is it not an arcaic vowel dying out on both sides of Atlantic? Whitney is about the only American that we no of who clearly givs the sound, and he tels us:

"My place of residence and education, up to 16 years old, was in Massachusetts, on the Connecticut river, at Northampton — a shire-town of long standing, which in my yuth had not lost its ancient and wel-established reputation as a home of 'old familis,' and scene of special culture and high-bred society; the birthplace of President Timothy Dwight, and long the home of President Jonathan Edwards. My father was a merchant and banker, not himself a college-taut man, but son of a graduat of Harvard; my mother's parents wer from the shore of Conn., her father a clergyman and graduat of Yale."—*Ibid.*

The sound appears to be about identical with haf-oppn 'short o' of German—not ø—which cud be represented by Öø while Øø stood for the oppn sound, as we hav urged repeatedly—for scientific (not popular) use. This haf-oppn o lingers in regular German as it does in our tung, a branch of Low German. This is tru of other sounds: as *ch* comon in Ger. as also in remote districts of British Isles; just as k before n is fully

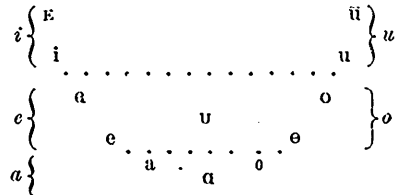
sounded in Ger. word for *boy, knabe*; and just as peopl in the Scotch Highlands say *knæ* and *knai* or *knif* for *knee* and *knife*, as was general in the Tudor period of Eng.

As *none* and *nun*, *nun*, ar said above to be diferent, it is plain that v is not ment. Lowel (pron., Lo'el) and Whitney appear to speak of diferent sounds; or is the explanation that the *Biglow Papers* ar colloquial, approximativ and exaggerativ?

*Ward* is usually givn as derived from Saxon *ward* or *weard*, in which it shud be noted that our printers put *w* as substitute for *u*, Saxon *w*, named Wen. We ofn ad final s, making *homewards, backward*, etc. This s has z sound. Its use is optional—Gray does not use it in this clasic. The pronunciation *-ward* is givn on Murray's authority who givs "wærd" in similar endings, as *airward*. Now if ə be the vowel in Orthoepy, even professedly liturgic, what shal be the ideal Orthograpy? *werd?* *wærd?* *wurd?* *wrd?* or what? Giv us the solution or work of the problem so that it can be gon over, verified and endorst if right. Bald, dogmatic statements of bare result wont do—giv us the work. Nor is an efeminat, whimsical like or dislike of much account. Unles it be put on a firm basis, it wont stay put, any more than the gost in *Hamlet*.

(To be continued.)

VOWEL SCALE.



finite	fi'nit
infinite	in'fin it
goal, jail	jal
goal	gol
there (adverb)	dær
" (expletiv)	dær
their, (pronoun)	dær
gone	gon (not, gəm)
shone	shon
shown	shon
breeches	britshəz
Bowdoin	Bod'n
figure	fig'yur, not figər
barrel	bæ'rel, not bærəl, bær
paragraf	pær'græf, not pær-
paraphrase	pær'fræz " "

KEY: a a a e e i i e o o u u ü  
 as in art at ale ell eel ill Inor ox no up put ooze

## THE FIVE RULES.

"1. Omit *c* from the digraf *ca* when pronounced as *c*-short, as *hed, health, spread, etc.*

"2. Omit silent *c* after a short vowel, as in *hav, giv, liv, definit, hostil, ganuin.*

"3. Write *f* for *ph* in such words as *alfabet, fantom, canifor, flossify, telegraf.*

"4. When a word ends with a doubl consonant, omit the last, as in *shal, cliff, eg.*

"5. Change *ed* final to *t*, where it has the sound of *t*, as in *lasht, imprest, flxt."*

The above Five Rules ar, or should be, well known. We hav adopted them as our *minimum* of change—all beyond them is stil open, as we ar satisfied that what we once said is stil true, namely, "Revision of Speling has been injured and retard-ed by answers that ar premature, by fore-closure of questions which should hav been left open. Nobody should expect "to hav accepted an elaborat system of o-racular dogmas which ring hollow to the "knock of critical inquiry. The 'common "sens of most' must endorse what wil "stand." The *Jur. Amer. Orthoepy*, in its April issue, seriously invites all to accept its solution, supremely unconscious that it fails in a dozen of ways. The speling in this paragraf illustrates the effect when the above rules ar applied so that ther may be sampls for comparison with an extension of the rules made by Mr Pitman, inventor of Fonografy, aud inserted here at his request. Mr P. calls it his "First Stage," manifestly thinking that the rules above dont go far enough. Some think them mended by the extension; others say that they ar spoiled. We leave the reader to compare and judge from this and the paragraf in our "trial corner." Here ar Mr Pitman's "Five Rules for Improving Speling, as a First Step toward Sp. Ref<sup>m</sup>":

"RULE 1.—The letters *c, g, x*, are rejected as useless, and every other consonant is confined to the representation of one sound; as one figure represents one number.

"RULE 2.—*A, c, i, o, u*, represent short vowels in *fat, pet, pit, pot, put*; and *u* represents, in addition, the vowel in *but, double*. The diphthongs in *bind, boy, bound, beauty*, are written by *ei, oi, ou, in*; and the open diphthong in *naive, Kaiser*, by *ai*. (*i*, in preference to *ei*, represents the first person.)

"RULE 3.—*Th* represents the two sounds in *breath, breathe*, (called, as single letters, *ih, thee*), and the recognized digraphs *ch, sh, ng, (called, as single letters, chay, ish, ing)*—represent the sounds heard in *much, wash, sing*. *Zh* (shee) is introduced for the voiced *ish* in *vision* (*vizhon*).

"RULE 4.—In monosyllables, and sometimes in polysyllables, *n* represents *ng* before *k* and *g*, as *think* (think), *anger* (ang-ger).

"RULE 5.—The speling of the LONG vowels is not altered, except in cases of gross irregularity, such as *beau* (*bo*), *cocoa* (*koko*), *receive* (*reseev*), *believe* (*beleev*), because any system of digraphs that might be adopted to represent the long vowels would prejudice the reform. Every letter of the old alfabet is used UNIFORMLY, ONLY for the representation of consonants, short vowels, and diphthongs.

"No change iz at prezent propozed in speling proper namez, whether ov personz or plazez. This department ov orthografy, ov reit, belongz to the ownorz of the namez, and the inhabitants ov the plazez."

trial corner.]

WHY NOT WE?—How kumz it that when most nashons ov sivileizd Europe hav rektified their speling, English speling, bei far in greatest need ov reform, stil remainz in kaos? Italian iz almost perfekt: Spain [and Holland] long ago reveizd its orthografy bei government authoriti; Peter the Great, the autocrat ov Russia, perjd the alfabet; onli resentli Germany korekcted sum ov the anomaliz in their speling thru the Prussian Minister ov Ediukashon; wheil Wales, poor despeizd Wales, thru the Eisteddfod, haz kept riten langwaje az near az posibel in harmoni with spoken langwaje. After strong kondemnashon from eminent authoritiz—W.E. Gladstone, Bishop Thirwall, Max Müller, etc.—iz it not a wonder that the thing iz stil tolerat-ed? Whot iz the reason? . . . . Welsh orthografy iz perfekshon and simplisiti itself kompared with English. Az far az Roman ka.akterz permit, it iz in harmoni with filologik seiens, in that it providez a leter for every sound in the langwaje, and theze leterz ar konsistentli uzed: so that lerning tu read simpli meanz lerning the namez and soundz ov the leterz. The Eisteddfod haz performd the funkshon ov an Akademi for all materz literari in Wales, inkluding orthografy.—E. JONES in Pitman's *Journal*.

DRUNKN S.—Whisky affects locomotion and so gets calld 'tangl-leg.' It affects the tung too. *S*, no mater whether sounded as in *sin, vision*, or as *z*, is changed by the drunkn into *sh*—at any rate that is fairly inferd from:—

"A STRICT REGARD FOR TRUTH.—*Nes'w*: 'Hold up, uncl! . eopl 'I think you're screwed.' *Uncl*: 'No, no, S eorgsh! no 'sh' bad 'sh' that! 'shance time—don' le 'sh be'—(*urching heavily*)—'osh't'utash'ly shober: can't bear osh't'utash'n.'—Illustrated in *Punch* for 9th March, 1889.

Now, what ar the facts?

"LEND A HAND."—Many suppose invention of differentiated letters a main object, anxious to display inventiv skil in effecting solutions that no one els accepts. Much beter wud it be if such time and talents wer givn to getting over diicultis a long way short of this. Ther ar many such difficultis. If yu, reader, ar not aware of them, yu ar in such blissful condition that 'twer almost "folly to be wise." Lend a hand in solving what lies at hand and not chase rainbows after promist pots of glittering gold. Solv simpler questions: other difficultis wil then vanish.

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Teacher—Spel *one*,  
 Boy—Oh-en-ee—*one*.  
 T.—*Wonder*.  
 B.—Oh-en ee-der—*wonder*.  
 T.—Rong. Try *two*  
 B.—Tee-doubleyou-oh—*two*  
 T.—*Do*.  
 B.—Dee-doubleyou-oh—*do*.  
 T.—Ancher mis. *Laugh*.  
 B.—(Proudly)—L-eh-you-jee-aitch—*laugh*  
 T.—*Calf*.  
 B.—Kay-eh-you-jee-aitch—*calf*.  
 T.—Rong again. *Enough*.  
 B.—Ee-en-oh-you-jee-aitch—*enough*.  
 T.—*Stuff*.  
 B.—Ess-tee-oh-you-jee-aitch—*stuff*.

**SYLLABLES.**—A syllable consists of one vowel sound, or two vowel sounds, immediately following each other, and one or more consonants. The vowels require for their characteristic tones a larger space in the mouth than the consonants, and while the mouth is tuned and untuned for the vowel of a syllable, the parts of the mouth on their way forward and backward form the consonants belonging to the syllable. In other words, a syllable is a group of speaking sounds produced by one puls of breath, with various quickly succeeding movements of the speaking mechanism, the mouth opening and closing in tuning and untuning for the vowel. It is on this account difficult to pronounce two consonants, similarly formed, coming close together in same syllable, as, for instance, *d* and *k*, and impossible to form double consonants in the same syllables, as *ff*, *pp*; but it instantly becomes easy when they are separated by a vowel as *tat*, *pap*, etc. When, for example, the syllable *rxn* is pronounced, the tongue-tip forms *r* while the mouth cavity sets itself in tune for *u*; and as it untunes itself the mouth closes with *n*. To speak another syllable there is required a new opening of the mouth and a new puls of the breath.—MADAM SELLER. (*Voice in Speaking*, chap. iii.)

#### “ENGLISH UNDEFINED.”

The spelling reformer is often depicted as a dangerous revolutionist, ready to disfigure language for sake of fanciful consistency. No description could be farther from truth. The spelling reformer is essentially conservative. Exempt from the common error of confounding the word itself with the form in which it appears in print, he is indeed, anxious to supersede every faulty form of capricious construction, by a perfect form built up in a scientific way. This may fairly enough be termed radical change, and as far as the form is concerned, the description would be strictly accurate. But its purpose is, in best sense, conservative. Form must be corrected in order that substance may re-

main uncorrupted. If words are to preserve their purity of pronunciation, symbols that represent them must no longer deceive. We therefore claim that movement for spelling reform is one that should enlist support of every man who desires to save our noble language from corruption. And who is there among men capable of appreciating the rich music of that language, that does not desire to save it from corruption? A great German scholar once said, “The care of the national language I consider as at all times a sacred trust, and a most important privilege of higher orders of society. Every man of education should make it the object of his unceasing concern, to preserve his language pure and entire, in all its beauty and perfection. . . . A nation whose language becomes rude and barbarous, must be on brink of barbarism in regard to everything else. A nation which allows her language to go to ruin, is parting with last half of intellectual independence, and testifies her willingness to cease to exist.” What Schlegel thus indicated as a privilege of the “higher orders of society,” is the duty of all men, and particularly so now, when the term “man of education” is no longer synonymous with one belonging to what is called “higher orders of society.”

The tendencies that favor spread of corrupt habits of speech are strong and never entirely absent. But agencies that counteract them are numerous, and may be relied on, if strenuously applied, to neutralize them altogether. While, however, corrupt spelling survives among us, itself suggesting corrupt modes of speech, one formidable obstacle stands in the way. That which might powerfully assist in preventing mischievous changes, actually assists in producing them! The future will abolish that anomaly. Meanwhile every individual must resist, as best he can, those little inaccuracies which creep into our speech, sometimes so imperceptibly that no one notices how; and which, trifling perhaps in each instance, nevertheless amount in aggregate to serious changes in the language.

Corruptions are product of ignorance and indolence, propagated chiefly by unconscious imitation. We have noticed with regret that some debased pronunciations have received a sort of quasi-sanction in certain cheap pronouncing dictionaries. The public should be warned against every dictionary not edited by a man of scholarly attainments. The mischief that sanction of a dictionary may do in this way is very considerable. But it is mainly by what we have called unconscious imitation that little tricks of speech, offensive to a refined ear, are acquired. How many of these objectionable little corruptions are current, would surprise anyone who has not paid special attention.—*Pitman*.