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The Herald.

DEVOTED TO PRONUNCIATION AND AMENDED SPELLING.

3^D YEAR.

TORONTO, CANADA, July, 1887.

N^R 25.

TU CORRESPONDENTS.—When adresing us, ad stret and number, found in nerly evry ishū, as uthervīz yur comūnicashns ma go tu the Temperans Herald.By request, we farther ilustrat the Intermediat Stāj, huz limits wer givn pej 95, by the orthograpy en this pej. It mets with acseptans mor jeneral than expected. . . .Critisizm is dubly valyubl when a betr remedy is sujested. Felt-finding is ezy.

Y^E OLDE BOOKE SHOPPE is a sīn at 353 Yung (Yonge) Stret. Its speling reminds us ev a tim, yet but haf gen, when wurdz wer snod under by sīlent letrs. The sumer ev Sensibl Speling is cuming; the winter ev sīlent and yusles letrs lingers lōng.

JERMAN PRONUNSIASHN.—Bello, we giv Haine's (Heine) bytiful līns as farther exampl and explanashn ev whot wēz scd en Jerman orthoepy last munth. The sīn ē is beter adapted tu Jerman than tu our tung, becoz ie so comonly represents that sound in preveling Jerman orthograpy. Nether ē, e, nēr ε, can be considerd perfectly satisfactory. A betr than eny is stil

desīrd: we hop tu prodys it befor lōng. The starzas referd tu ar non by ther opning līn: "Du bist wie eine Blume."

Du bist vē aine blume,
Zo holt unt shoēn unt rain;
Ifi shau difi an, unt vemut
Shlāifst mēr ins herts hindain.
Mēr ist, als ep ifi dē hende
Oufs haupt dēr legen zelt',
Betent das Göt difi erhalte
Zo rain unt shoēn unt holt.

A translashn by Mr D. R. Keys, Teronto, in the orijinal metr, is givn belo:

Thou art as in the flouer,
So winsum, pur and fēr,
F gaz, and lurking sadnes
Oft fils my hart with car.
Mēsems I shud en thy forhed
My hands in blesing lē,
Praing tu God that he kep the
Pur, winsum, fēr olwe.

—With thoz hu help along Amended Speling in Jermany a ralying-cry is "Kaine überflüsigen bufastaben mer". This, frely interpreted, signifiz: From this overwhelming flud ev yusles letrs, gud Lōrd, deliver us; or, literaly, No mor superfluous letrs. We hav greter ned ev deliverans than the.

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—The Campbellford *Herald* is agitating that the name of the vilage be speld Camelford.

—The Amer. Filologic Asoc'n met in Burlington, Vermont, July 12 to 14. Prof. March read a paper on "Standard English" therein maintaining, against Sweet, that a standard pronunciation shud be taut natives and foreners insted of a colloquial dialect: for a dialect *grew up* of itself by accident, whim, and blind imitation of asociats, whereas a standard language was *built up* by reason and taste of tho'tful riters and speakers (who wer ever pruning and training natural speech). A paper on "Music in Speech" was red by Mr. Rous, Toronto, a synopsis of which we hav already givn. The section or comitee on Amended Speling made report that the filologic work was now completed, the 24 Rules being a synopsis of it, and that all that remained was to rite a dictionary on the new basis.

—THE S. R. A. MEETING was held, as usual, just after adjurnment of Filologic Asocia'n's meeting, at Burlington, Vt. Three filologists remaind from one meeting to the other and wer joind by some members. Another, going to it, informs us that he was kept a litl late by a boat and having to get his boots blakt, when lo! he met them coming down the hill! The session—about an hour long—was over. Ther cud hav been litl more than time to formally pas audited accounts and elect a cut-and-dried batch of officers. We hav some tho'ts of calling a meeting evry year of an Asoc'n to be calld the great International Orthografic Asoc'n (must have big name yu no) just after either the Amer. (U. S.) or Canadian Medical terminats its session, whichever wud best suit our convenience as to date, distance, etc. The Canadian Asoc'n may meet anywhere from Halifax to Vancouver and the other from San Francisco to New York. Then a few of us cud vote ourselvs the Asoc'n and call on evrybody to bow the nee and pay their dues. The scheme is grand on paper. Its only weak point is its transparently presumptuous arrogance. If then we wer to insist on some shiboleth of an alfabet we cud "run things" (in the ground so far as geting general confidence of reformers evrywhere). The fact is, meeting at distant points never can be anything but a delusion, a snare, and a farce. The only effectual way, we hav all along taut and practist, is to hav a printed jurnal with a minimum agreed on and a provisional alfabet subject to revision acording to proved advances in the progres of the sience of speech-sounds. We trust we hav seen the last of the old policy.

—In *conscience*, how many C's ar ther; and what is the sound of each? The first and last represent diferent sounds. What about the midl one?

—Ther ar three principal sounds, which ar those in 'a', 'i', 'u', not acording to the valyu of those signs in English naming, Aa, Igh, Yow, but acording to the valyu which they most comonly represent in European languages, and which we may spel thus, ah, ee, oo. It is the sound of 'a' in *father* of 'i' in *dig*, and of 'u' in *full*.—EARL (*Philology*, 2nd ed., § 108.)

It folos as a corolary to the above that in European tungs 'a', 'i' and 'u' most comonly represent the vowels in *father*, *dig*, and *full* respectively. Ther ar, however, two forms of the first letr. One (a) is that most comonly found in print; the other (α) is found in *italic*, script, in riting, and in the Gothic shape of leters, for exampl, German. Let us use the two forms properly. Qa is *not* a "new letr."

GUESS AND RECKON.—Mr. A. Stevenson rites to the *Week* that it is a mistake to consider either *guess* or *reckn* as an Americanism. He finds *reckon* in authorised version of Bible (Romans viii., 18, et *passim*.) He givs quotations to sho that *guess* is a good old English word in use in England before America was herd of with extracts from Wiclif, Chaucer and Gower, in none of which is ther a *u* in the speling. He further says:

"It wud seem that at a period subsequent to that represented in these extracts the word "gesse" in the sens indicated became obsolete in literary English but continued to be used colloquially thruout England for many years. The Puritans evidently bro't the word over to England in the *Mayflower*; and while it died out in the old land a vigorous new life has been accorded to it in America. . . . It may not be out of place to call attention to the speling "gesse." It has ofn been urged as an insuperabl objection that any scheme for reforming our orthografy wud obscure the derivation of the alterd words. But it is evident from this, and from very many others that cud be cited that speling might be greatly simplified by merely returning to the old etymologic forms."

NOTICE.

ANY PERSON FOUND
INGUREING THIS FENCE
OR TREES WILL BE
PROSECUTED BY ORDER
OF TOWN COUNCIL.

T. BLAIN.

The above notice is found in no les than three places on the fence of a public park in Barrie. I have copid it with care and will vouch for its accuracy. It is imediately oposit the Colegiat Institute. What struck my untutord mind was the depth of meaning thrown into the word *ingureing*. The town council inust hav run out of stops, or they surely wud hav placed one after *prosecuted*, for we ar left to infer that the person who is unfortunat enuf to be "found ingureing this trees" will be prosecuted, not in the usual way, but by an order of the town council which will pursu him to destruction.—A. H. O'B. in *Grip*.

LITERATURE.

A PRIMER by C. W. Knudsen. Golding Brothers, South Norwalk, Conn., 1887. 24 mo. price 25 cents.

This well bound book of about 100 pages has an explanatory appendix, and altho the last in order of appearance, is first in a series. The others already published and ar Esop's Fables, Mark's Gospel, and a Pronouncing Dictionary of 405 pages. The Primer having fulfilled its elementary purpose, Esop and Mark can be used as reading books. After them, the pupil can readily pass to ordinary print without transition reader, as the orthography found in the series is so like the old. It is then semi-phonetic rather than strictly having a sound for each sign. This appears proper for an Educational Stage. In the dictionary the words ar found in order of their pronunciation: the latter being non, it gives the old spelling, so that, noting the sound, the pupil can find its common form. The series is well adapted to teach reading. The truth is children can (and should) be taught to read by this or any similar series better than in the old way. It is not essential which series is used. This is the best series we no of now. That it can and will be improved is certain. Knudsen is a moderate, not an extremist. The type is large and it is well printed. Getting the forms cut so well must have cost Mr. K. "a pretty penny." Five modifications of vowel letters ar used. On examination, each will find a few points he will consider weak—no one has yet produced a faultless primer.

DROPT H'S AND DROPT R'S.—The history of *h* and *r* in modern times is an instructive instance of how pronunciation may be controlled by a changing spelling. It is certain that if English had been left to itself the sound *h* would have been as completely lost in standard language as it has been in most of the dialects. But the distinction between *house* and *'ouse*, altho in itself comparatively slight, being easily marked in writing, such spellings as *'ouse* came to be used in novels, etc., as an easy way of suggesting a vulgar speaker. The result was to produce a purely artificial reaction against the natural tendency to drop *h*, its retention being now considered an almost infallible test of education and refinement. The weakening of *r* into a vowel, and its absorption into the vowel that precedes it, altho really quite as injurious to the force and intelligibility of the language as dropping *h*, not being easily marked in writing, passes unheeded, and, indeed, few people realize the fact that they make no difference whatever between such words as *father* and *farther*.—SWEET in *Handbook of Ph.*, p. 124. Few people, I fear (or, rather, hope) relish total dropping untrilled *r*, confusing *father* and *farther*, *arms* and *arms*, *nor* and *gnaw*.—Prof. Passy.

CORRESPONDENCE.

DOWN WITH DIGRAPHS—EXTEND THE ALFABET.

SIR,—If "new letters ar right in principle," (E. Jones) why fight them? Is it harder to learn a distinctive new character than new combinations of old ones? Nay, verily. With Joel Myers, I say, "Half-way alphabets will never succeed and never o't to." Enlarging the alphabet is correct. For brevity, retain *x*; for clearness, *k*, omitting *c*. Let us have single signs for the diphthongs *I*, *ou*, *oi*. For the first diphthong, tailed *i* (*j*) is best, looped *i* (*b*) isn't bad, a stroke in place of the dot is good, but "oi" never. For vowel in *ooze*, *u* is good enough. Why not adopt tailed *n* for *ng*, which it is impossible for the most conservative to object to, and thus forge another link in the chain of brevity. Please call public attention to certain improved spellings now in vogue: *program*, *Eskimo*, *catalog*, *mosketos*.

Dakota.

A. J. PIERCE

W AND Y,

SIR,—The main point is to settle on an alphabet and use it in a good paper to stay. I have not changed my views on *w* and *y*. Every author consulted allows long *u*, as in *tube*, to be a diphthong. Webster says the sounds are *oo* preceded by the consonant *y* or the vowel *ee* or *i*. This shows that to him these three sounds were so nearly identical that it made no difference which should be employed. I have chosen *i*. Now, if in this case *i* can be used, why not in every case. [Our correspondent spells *yet* *iet*. In like manner, he contends that the vowel in *put* and the first sound in *will* ar indistinguishable and he would represent them both by one sign (*w*)] Canyon City, Col.

A. B. PIKARD.

HE PRACTISES IT.

SIR,—I am not wedded to any set theory but think the "survival of the fittest" will yet be practically demonstrated. I have written in Simplified Spelling for twelve or fifteen years to relatives and intimate friends, tho I use "common spelling" in writing to those who do not do me.

Middletown, N. Y.

J. C. MULLISON.

INTERMEDIAT STAGE.

SIR,—Your Intermediat Stage, as exemplified in your last, is most excellent. Send your journal, at my expense, for 4 years to that poor Alabama clergyman.

Toronto.

R. TYSCN.

SUPPORTING A JOURNAL—MODIFIED LETTERS.

SIR,—There are phoneticians enough to support well a journal devoted to Amended Spelling IF they would put their shoulders to the wheel and support it by not only subscribing for it themselves but getting others to do so.

Some wil prefer one letr ; others, another. They must hav yuniform [harmonius ?] faces. Time, patience and perseverance wil accomplish it. I wish yu cud raiz money enuf to procure type for a complete alfabet. Knudsen's Dictionary wud be a great help if he had an entire alfabet.

Oberlin, Ohio. JOEL MYERS.

ETYMOLOGY.

[The foloing we find in Mackay's paper before Nova Scotia Educational Assoc'n, 1885. A translation into French appear in *Bulletin Mensuel* for Feb. A Swedish translation has more recently appear in *Nystavaren*, which is the organ of the Swedish S. R. A.]

"Spel Phthisic," (said our amiabl and most conventional teacher, whom we all liked.) Jim, litl cuning rebel, as he was, ansers : "T-i-s-i-c."

"No, P-h-t-h-i-s-i-c," said the teacher, and the dialog went on.

"Why do yu spel it with a *phth*?"

"To sho that it is from Greek and means consumption."

"Cudn't we no it is from Greek and ment consumption without *phth*?"

"Perhaps yu cud ; but yu wud hav to turn up the dictionary for it."

"And if yu spel it with *phth* yu needn't turn up the dictionary need yu?"

"No, yu blokked, that is to say, if yu no Greek, the form of speling wud tel yu that it was Greek."

"Do peopl generally no Greek before they lern to spel English?"

"Of cours not. What a foolish question!"

"Wel, why did they make the word so that we hav to lern Greek speling before we lern English speling?"

"Why, becaus that is the right way to spel, who ever herd of it being speld any other way? And when yu lern Greek it wil strike yu with great plesure to see how simpl the speling and meaning of *Phthisic* wud hav been had yu only non Greek before yu lern'd to spel."

"Do all then, lern Greek after they lern to spel so as to be struk with this great plesure?"

"Of cours not. But why do yu ask?"

"Wel,—I was only thinking. But how many do lern Greek?"

"Perhaps 20,000, according to the *Encyclopaedia*."

"And how many lern English?"

"About 100,000,000."

"And how many 20,000 are ther in 100,000,000?"

"About 5,000, of cours. But what of that?"

"Is not that the same as if evry one in a town larger than Pictou shud be compeld to spend his time in lerning English words with Greek speling, so that *one* boy shud hav the plesure of seeing, when he comes to

study Greek, that some words he lern'd wer speld prety much, altho not exactly, like Greek?"

"Yu had beter hold yur tung, Jim, yu ar a dangerus boy—to dare to question the proper way of speling words, which I hav by dint of careful labor for years become almost perfect in, in which I hav ataind more excelence than in any other subject. Yu conceited, radical litl scamp!—keep mum, and spel *Phthisic*."

Had Jim been able to quote in retort, what a few years afterwards was stated by one of the most acurat scolars in the world, A. H. Sayce, Profesor of Philology in Oxford, and author of the international textbook, "The Siencie of Languages," which of the two wud hav wilted? Here it is: "English speling has become a mere seris of arbitrary combinations, an embodiment of the wild gesses and etymologis of a presientific age, and the hap-hazard caprice of ignorant printers. It is good for litl els but to disguise our language, to hinder education, and to suggest fals analogis."

—Evry articulation or "consonant" consists of two parts, a *close position* and an *opening action*. Final articulations in words therefore ar not completed until the organs ar *separated*. . . . As a hamer is raizd before its downward stroke, and afterwards rebounds from the object struck: so the activ organs of speech shud, before an articulativ strok, be freely separated from the parts of the mouth against which they ar to act and afterwards ently fall asunder. The opening of the mouth puts all the organs in a state of redines for any action that may folo; and, at the same time, allows for an easy influx of air.—*Bell's Elocution*.

PROSODY.—The latest theory of vers—Mr. Sidney Lanier's—is, in substance, that the lines ar divided into bars, and so groupt that those of equal temporal value recur in fixt numerical positions; that a pause can take the place of a sybl; that the accent lengthens the time necessary to the utterance of a sybl, whether it be the usual pronunciation accent, or the logical accent comonly calld *emfasis*; that evry sentence has a rythm of its own conected with the meaning it conveys. His principles seem to be correctly based in the siencie of sound, and the nature of spoken discours, and the last seems to be illustrated in many of Longfelo's lines. For if we examin his poems, we find that in many of them the mechanical rythm is neglected. Many of them wil not scan in the tecnical sens. Ther ar redundant lines and short lines, but the harmony which results from artistically form'd clauses is never wanting.—*C. F. Johnson*.

—Can you tel how Keough, a man's name, is pronounst?