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The Herald.

DEVOTED TO PRONUNCIATION AND AMENDED SPELLING.

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"OUR LITERARY LANGUAGE"

FIRST STAGE: 1200 TU 1600

About 1200 appeared a remarkable work (named *Ormulum* after the author's own name, Orm) written in north-east Midland of Lincolnshire, the first clear example of the form our literary language was destined to assume, a long dreary poem (10,000 lines) in a sadly monotonous unrhymed meter, with introduction, paraphrases read in church during the year, and homilies on them. The sole existing manuscript was written by Orm himself in his own phonetic spelling which he strongly recommends. This and his very regular meter leave no doubt as to grammatical forms, and give his poem, otherwise uninviting, high philological value. Chaucer likewise employed the east Midland dialect with slight modifications of Orm's language due to his living in London instead of Lincolnshire and to living 150 years later. Agreement, as to grammatical usages, is extremely close, allowing for lapses of time, and comparison gives most indubitable results. There is no better way to learn Chaucer's grammar.

East Midland had some varieties: dialects of Lincolnshire and of Norfolk were not quite the same and both differed somewhat from that of Essex-Middlesex; but general characteristics are very much alike in all. In time, speech of students at Oxford and Cambridge closely assimilated to that of the Court in London; and this "educated" type was naturally that to which Chaucer and great 16th century writers endeavored to conform.—SKEAT in *Eng. Dialects*, p. 73.

We pass from Manning to Chaucer, from Chaucer to Lydgate and Chaucer, to Lord

Surrey and Sackville and Spenser without any real change in the actual [Spoken] dialect employed, but only in the form [or Spelling] of it.—*Ibid.*, p. 79.

West Midland differs little from east M. It approaches Northumbrian more nearly in some respects.—*Ibid.*

It is notorious that the Northern dialect admits Scandinavian words freely; true, in less degree, of east-M., rare in Southern and southern west-M. Constant Danish invasion and subjection of England by three Danish kings, Cnut and successors, materially increased our vocabulary; more for dialects than standard language.—*Ibid.*, p. 88.

ORTHOGRAPHIES IN AUSTRIA-HUNGARY

In Austria-Hungary fourteen languages are spoken—eleven in the army—a hot-bed in politics with antipathies in race, language and religion as important elements. Canada has the same in less degree.

Austria-Hungary, mostly inland, reaches the head of the Adriatic sea, with Trieste its main port. Recently a direct passenger and freight service was established from there to Canada (Trieste to Saint John, N.B.) This and the recent Turco-Balkan war bring "near-east" nations in evidence by great immigration therefrom of Bulgarians, Serbs, Rumanians, Poles, Chechs, and the rest. Their languages, written and spoken, have great interest. Capt. F. Baron de Haan, Chief of Coast Pilot Bureau of Austria-Hungary, wrote from Trieste a general statement to every word of which we ask market attention, because many parts of our general problem (evolution of a real Orthography) find solution there already.

EXPLANATION: OMIT useless letters; CHANGE (if sounded so) *d* to *t*, *ph* or *gh* to *f*; *o* to *u* in *to*, *do*, *who*, *prove*, *move*, *behave*, *shoe*, *canoe*.

For fuller explanation and Platform see cover of Annual of New Spelling (postpaid, 10 c.)

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Capt. de Haan says:—

"All languages spoken in Austria can be speld in Roman caracters; as German and Serbian. The latter is identical with Croatian, from which it differs in nothing but the Cyrillian alfabet [modified from Greek by Cyril (livd 827 tu 869) superseding an older Slav alfabet].

"Each of these (and several other languages) has its own simpl and unvarying system for rendering evry sound in it by letters uzed in acoord with rules that leav no dout as tu pronunciation—precepts generally few, and very easily renderd in a synopsis tu accompany a book or chart.

"In most languages ar letters that can not be renderd in evry other language, becaus sounds indicated du not exist in both; as German ch in English, Eng. th in German, or Polish £ in both.

"Evry nation has, beside, its own peculiar way tu articulate sounds, that can not be renderd by letters, and scarcely explaid by words. Stil pronunciation and speling can be made tu go togeth-er sufficiently tu exclude dout as tu sound of a sylabl. A litl experience wil make evry reader pronounce a forin word in the same way and intelligibl tu the nation it belongs tu.

"Difficulty begins and is not tu be surmounted by such methods if English has tu be red and pronounced by a foriner. In it evry vowel has several difrent sounds, not indicated by speling and sylabls composed of quite difrent letters hav the same sound. It is necessary tu lern separately by hart how evry singl word is pronounced; it is imposibl tu rite an unknown or forin word in English so that evry reader is constraiend tu pronounce it exactly the same.

". . . . only in English pronunciation of evry vowel and sylabl must be indicated by signs or numbers, as in pronouncing dictionaries.

"No universal system indicating pronunciation of any human sound in any language by systematic use of letters and signs has as yet, tu my noledge, been introduced for practical purposes. Relativ endeavors form a subject of scientific filology and linguistic disiplin with which I am not conversant."

Now, all this but goes tu sho soundnes in plank 14 of our Platform, and need tu discover rules calld for by plank 33. Evry language must work out its own rules, as evry individual "works out his own salvation." What de Haan rote from Trieste but confirms what Crawley rote more recently from Washington:—

"I no nothing about a universal alfabet; but think each language wud du better tu find the alfabet [and rules] most suitabl tu its own needs without regard tu others' needs. Tu maintain the contrary is like inviting Fijis tu don Eskimo dres."—*Pioneer*, 1913, page 73.

We think planks 14, 22 and 33 quite pivotal at this stage.

F, S AND TH

An esteemd correspondent urges us tu spel of with v. The *SS Bulletin* (June, p. 11) tels of "enthusiastic reformers hu yern for complete fonetic speling, and hesitating ones hu wish tu use simplified speling." We hesitate becaus bound up with f ar s and th. The three stand or together change tu v, z, ð. Recently, Emerson urged change of s tu z when sounded so (*Ibid.*, p. 3), "which wud involv changes in many thousand words and final z in innumerabl plurals and present tenses." Emerson's "proposal was postponed" by hesitants. The SSS makes no distinction of *ths* in *thigh*, *thy*. The *New Standard Dict'y*, now in pres, wil hav difrence of ligature (as *th*) only. For a thousand years these rules prevail:

"þ may be pronounced as breth in *thin* at begining and end of words and after breth consonants as c, p: sō þū seȝst, yu speak truth [truth thou sayst]; hē slæpþ, he sleeps. Otherwise (that is, when folod by a vowel or a voice consonant such as r) it had the voice sound in *then*: on heofone and on eorþan, in hev'n and on erth. f and s hav breth sounds f, s and the voice sounds v, z according tu the same rules.—SWEET, *First Steps in Anglo-Saxon*, p. 3. Effects of these rules last tu this day, and Planks 4 and 5 require us tu observ. Note *south southern*, *north northern*, *breth breathe*, and that *path*, *truth*, etc., hav plurals in (not þs, but) ðz. Ther is no break in th or in s, but for plurals of "nouns in f or fe change f or fe tu ves" (not vz) says an old rule. Shud this break justify a general change of f tu v? Let a 'strong man' anser.

NEWS-NOTES AND COMENTS

—The greatest posibl hindrance tu sp. reform comes from the attempt tu impose suthern mispronunciations on inhabitants of Scotland, Ireland, and the North of England, hu hav retaind correct pronunciation.—J. BLAIRIE in *Pioneer*, 1913, p. 57. Why not ad the Midlands and West and south-west of England? Speech there is very near what Skeat calls "our literary language." Parts of Upper Canada wer settl'd by these peple. The south-west of Durham county swarms with Cornish and Devon-Somerset folk, hu now closely aproximate "our literary language" in speech, tho their elders often put v or z for f or s ("vine Zomerzet) and for *lord*, *horn*, etc., say lard, harn, etc., without dropping h or r. They repudiate London west-end speech with energy and emfasis, tho from suthern England.

—On 5th Jan., Mr O. C. Blackmer, Oak Park, Ill., died sudnly and unexpectedly at his own door, aged 85. He had just adrest a Congregational Sunday scool. His New Speling apcard on p. 56: other vews on p. 127. Limits of space forbid fuller notice due an admirabl character hu stedfastly, patiently workt in right directions.

—"Tabu," the HERALD spelling, appears in the *Open Court*, Chicago, Jan., 1913, p. 33. We put tabu'd for tabooed.

—From Chicago the Educa'l Council of Northwestern University announce that dubld m in *mamma* shal be singl. This and other dubld consonants imposed on the human race worthles labor enuf tu bild several Chicagos.—*Toronto Globe*, 12 May, 1913.

—Two forms of ð (ð, ð) ar on trial, for choice. The punch for the first was paid by the HERALD. Prof. Hempl fatherd the other.

—The Chinese republic want a new alfabet with "signs simpl in form, as few as posibl, adequat tu express all sounds comonly used in principal Chinese dialects." A conference of lerned mandarins (calld by their minister of education tu work out an alfabet) agree they can not solv the problem alone, and recomend a public competition.

—A New Yorker rites: "I wish the HERALD cud hav a wide and paying circulation. The only thing that prevents me from calling it the best fonetic periodical on the American Continent is that ther isn't any other fonetic periodical on the American Continent. Yu hav two singular advantages: yu understand the subject, and yu can print what yu pleas."

NOTES ON PRONUNCIATION.

[See Plank 22. Cont'd from pp. 199, 203, 206, 231]

(q) Mr Wintemberg rote, after page 230 went tu pres, that *start* in Ontario German is (not *start*, but) *stært* as in "Pen. Dutch" (see our page 218); also that b in *trouble*, *miserabl*, and v in *level*, *savage*, is (not f, as in regular German, but) v.

(r) A superfine yung lady from these ilands, hu visited the U. S., on her return rote a paper saying how it amused her tu hear children in scool pronounce r in *paper*, *father*. Whatever her own practice, r is not ded here, save with slovenly speakers.—R. C. Harding, Wellington, New Z.

(s) Cokny vulgarisms in Dickens, interchangeabl v, w, and the misplaced aspirat picture what I remember as comon; *foine*, *lydy*, *byby*, etc., ar new, but spred.—IBID.

(t) *A New Standard Dictionary*, now in pres, wil introduce dotles-i and tailles-a (i, ə) tu sho *two* weak vowels. It wil use the NEA alfabet, save i, misuse of which we complaind on pages 225, 226. Circumflex i, e (i, ê) disappear too, huraa!!

(u) Rev. W. S. Houghton, Birmingham, Eng., on his way tu visit Congregational churches in Jamaica and British Guiana, preacht in Toronto, 8 Dec. 1907. He put a (*fur*) for o (*for*) in *poverty*, *forest*, *what*, *God*, *profet*, *con*; very weak u folod ð; æ was not fully fronted, a was givn in many words where æ seemd due; *honor*, *reward* had o; *share*, *poor* had æ, u; closer i was general and in *work* it verged tuward e.

(v) Use of a for an o-speling, a striking feature of American pronunciation, is of west-of-England origin, as later observations tend tu sho.

A VIGOROS PROTEST

Our SSS act like empirics hu hav never hard of fonetics, and quite ignore men hu hav workt 50 years. Their english values so-calld can never last, hindering introduction of a system more scientific. The pronunciation folod is a stilted, affected, Cokny simper (shopkeeper clas). Of many absurdities the greatest is: adopting ai, ee, oe, au, ou, as comonest forms for e, i, o, o', au, yet employing aa, uu, yu, tho aa is in only two forin words (*bazaar*, *ulaam*, better *bâzar*, *salâm*); yu in *Yule* only; yu not at all (tho Buuren is correct duch of pres't Van Buren's name, as Roozeveld is of Roosevelt's). They make no distinction between *to*, *two* and *too*; *for*, *four* and *fore*. They ignore a fundamental rule: rite slo, formal pronunciation of each sylabl [Plank 11].

Rye, Eng.

E. A. PHIPSON.

[Mr P. spels *English*, *Dutch*, *French*, etc., without capitals, a matter of (not spelling, but) national style—the French du the same with week-days. The name *Pioneer* recalls and appears tu ignore the *Phonetic Pioneer*, monthly, publisht from 1858 tu 1862 at Oshawa, Ont., by Mr Wm H. Orr, now of Toronto. Mr Phipson says:—"It is hard tu get other subscribers tu THE HERALD, most men read nothing but about murders and sport, women litl but sensational love stories."]

1, ð AND "OV"

I hope 1 is not the final effort tu get a new symbol for "short u." Unfinisht in appearance, it is a needles strain tu the eye — n is preferabl all around.

Is ther any need tu cros ð?

Can't yu screw up courage tu print of as "ov" thruout? Then "of" wud be off.

Hetton, Eng.

H. DRUMMOND.

[Ther is litl choice between 1 and n (A, Passy's A-sign, rounded). 1 is the first haf of v, and v is the sign in NED. 1 is the latter haf of n, turnd u, a *Standard* dictionary faulty u-sign for an a-sound. 1 is derived from 'a,' being 1 with level base. 1 has the same mouth-position as h, m, n, r; and preservs shape-similarity of end of h, m, n (n does too). r is 1 with twirl atop tu sho raid trild tung-tip. ð, cros and all, a restoration, needs no lifted pen, as does *th*].

In provisional New Speling]

STRES AND PITCH.—W1 distingwish stres-aksent and meuzical- or pitch-aksent. An ekselent eczempl ov gramatic yus ov stres-aksent iz sach werd-pearz az *conflict* *konflikt*, *object* *objekt*, ðe verb bring acsented on ðe sekond silabl, ðe naun on ðe first. Meuzical aksent iz a far moar prevalent characteristic ðan iz general sapözd; it iz bai no minz confaind tu Chainiz and neburing langwejez ov ðe Ist, bat iz faund in meni langwejez ov Africa, and haz brn discovverd risentli bai Mr J. P. Harington and ðe

raiter in a feu North American Indian angwejez. Az a prosis ov definit gramatic significans, hauever, meuzical ak-sent iz not so waid-spred. It iz faund, tu giv bit wān eczempl, in erlier stejez ov Indo-Jermanic, az eczemplifaid amāng 1đerz bai Lithuanian and clasical Grk.
—Dr E. SHAPIR in *Pop. Sci. Monthly*, July 1911.

C AND K.—De paragraf abāv haz sevral werd-formz đat eczemplifai aur yus ov c and k. For sevral yiarz it apiard gud tu yuz k definitli hwen it stopt eni strong silabl (đat iz, immdiatli folod đe vauel đerin). Conversli, hwen yu hav k in đat pozision, đe silabl iz strong and stopt. In 1đer werdz, k iz strong c. In “ecspekt” đe sekond silabl haz strong stres; in “sacses” đe ferst mast bi wik-er, els it wud hav k in sted ov c—a help in promnsiesion. Stil 1đer eczemplz ar: s1spekt, conduct (naun), condakt (verb), hikap, inflikt, respektivli, tabako, moka-sin, moroko, aksis, aksez, aktiv, fricwent, cwal, inikwiti, apoplektic, tecnik, yunik.

LEND TU HANDZ.—“Luk hiar, if yu ar going tu help mi aut wiđ đis biznes, yu’l hav tu du moar đan jst tu lend a hand hwen yu fil laik it. Yu’l hav tu lend tu handz, and bi redi wiđ đem ol đe taim.” Đe sharp, eczaspereted werdz cem from wān duing most ov đe werk, hiz asistant standing bai, wiđ plenti ov advais and onli haf-harted eforts tu lend a hand. Did yu ever hiar đe wud-bi popyular wān declear frilingli: “If đer iz enithing ai can du for a frend, ol ai wont iz tu no hwot it iz.” And đen, hwen an oporteu-niti cem tu put in praktis hwot hi profest ov a wilignes tu help, hi wud bi faund tu lend a hand charili; perhaps hindering and discrejng moar đan hi helpt bai hiz lu-worm efort. If yu ar a helper bi a gud wān, a tu-hand lender. Tek hold ov hwot pruvz tu mach for an 1đer and lift hartili. Yur gud chiar and sinsiar efort wil inspaiar him wiđ a neu strength and carej, and hi wil bi faund ebl tu du moar đan befoar yu tuk hold. Đe old lainz abaut grasping netlz laitli and geting stang, hwail đe ferm hand faindz đem silk, holdz hiar. Haf-harted,

wān-handed efort tairz yu and helps bat litl, tu handz wilingli lent mek lait werk and moar đan dabl đe efisiensi in both helper and helpt.—*Onward*, 24th O’g., 1912.

A LARJER ANGLO-SAKSONDOM.—Jorj Woshington’z nem asoseets wiđ straiif, not yuniti. Separesion ov đe American coloniz med đat immortal, yet yuniti iz Woshington’z rial nōt; elienesion and divizion wer jstifaid in (not đemselvz, bat) đe larjer yuniti for hwitsh đe prepeard đe we. No man can muv abaut đe English-spking werld tudē, no mater hwot đe latitude or hwot đe flag, wiđaut a groing sens ov relesionship no revolu-sion cud abolish, and đe Decleresion ov Independens bat sertifaiz and confermz. Benith Norđern Laits and 1nder S1đern Cros, bai Misisipi or Temz, đer iz đat in comon amāng men ov English sprich đat, thru long renjez ov histori, werks stedili tu larjer Anglo-Saksondom. Strenjerz me not 1nderstand, rven S1nz ov đe Bhd disregard; yet, werld araund and jeneres-ion thru, it persists, chif gloari ov aur nesionz, abaiding bond ov aur pipl.

“Diper đan sprich iz aur lv,
Stronger đan laif aur teđer,
Đo wi du not fo’l on đe nek
And kis hwen wi cam tugeđer.”

Đis Anglo-Sakson yuniti cannot end wiđ Britan and America. Đe werld iz tu smol for sivilaizd nezionz tu bi sef ec-sept on termz ov internasional gud-wil. Đe ecsternal atiteud ov Britan and Jer-mani iz bat a mokari ov sivilizesion, a menas tu both and tu ol đe werld. Tu bring internasional fraterniti wi nrd a neu nasional aidral, a neu nasional spi-rit, a neu motev: đat ov Jizus hwen hi sed ‘If eni wud bi gret amāngst yu, let him serv.’ Despait blhster and jingoizm, nesionz ov đe Anglo-Sakson yuniti fes đat standard and ar truer tu it tudē đan ever, moar obdient tu fundamentalz ov Cristian internasionalizm.—Dr J. A. MACDONALD, Toronto, in adress, on 22nd Feb., in Oberlin, O., repted on 23rd in Toronto (*Globe*, 24th).

KEY: ō e i 1 ō ū oi ai au eu
as in they see us old rule oil aisle owl few
(Marking o or u is unnecessary in open syllabls
and some other definit positions.)

Alfabet: aabcdēefghijklmnoprstuvwyz