

—The matter (as well as form) of these words deserves attention. Every letter has attached a cosmopolitan or fundamental sound-value, disregard of which in many a scheme makes its rejection foregone. Whitney well said (*Or. & Ling. Studies*, 2nd Ser., p. 198): "every letter of our alphabet had originally, and still preserves in the main, outside of our own language, a single unvarying sound." Story, of Chicago, in the '80s, assigned old letters to sounds that suited Story. Wud that he was the last to commit that folly!

—Virginia's settlement and history appear in *Sketches from Old Virginia*, by A. G. Bradley, historian, who wrote sketches for magazines, and collects them in a volume (Macmillan, 284 pages) with an Introduction of 39 pages. Therein is an account of settlement from 1640 on by English immigrants along the coast, later by Scotch-Irish Protestants, who cleared it to the Alleghenies, thence spreading west into Kentucky, etc.

—Virginia and Massachusetts are not merely our two most ancient and interesting colonies, but from them sprung, not wholly but in great measure, two diverse types of Anglo-American, Northerner and Southerner. The Westerner has appeared lately and diverts attention and significance from old line of cleavage.—*Ibid.*, p. 2.

—The immense immigration of Irish Roman Catholics to America is quite a modern affair. It hadn't begun in the 18th cent., nor did it reach serious proportions till after the famine of 1849. The modern Irish immigrant is found in towns chiefly.—*Ibid.*, page 15.

—"Spied the News Abroad" is a plea by Mr Drummond for earnestness and activity in distributing our literature. Markt copies of these pages serve an admirable purpose if inserted in letters. Markt paragraphs receive double attention.

—The spring of 1908 saw a great influx of people from Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas and Oklahoma chiefly, thru Winnipeg to Alberta and Saskatchewan. Most were natives of U. States who "no a good thing when they see it." Britishers avoid new districts. Many were returning Canadians.

—The rush to Canada and the Southwest is mostly of native American farmers from East and Mid West who sell their farms and buy larger holdings in newer territory. They take with them (not urban, but) rural speech.—E. B. T.

—Some French Canadians leave New England to settle in colonies in Alberta. In 1906 Alberta and Saskatchewan were granted constitutions (by enactment at Ottawa) that allowed the Roman church privileges (as to schools) denied in some Provinces and all the States. Hence their priests favor exodus and lead the way.

UNPROGRESSIV BISHOPS.

Recently U. S. Episcopal church bishops met in council. Moved that their Prayer Book have its scripture selections altered to accord with the Revised Version—lost. Will they go back to 16th cent' spellings? Why not? Old spellings are as consistent as old verbiage in this 20th! They accord with antiquated theology! They, like the woman in the story, say, in effect, "Gimi ði auld we yit!" as that story by Leigh Hunt, who relates,

recounting the history of the substitution of crooked s for long s by Bell about 1801, that the Rivingtons were printing a book for the then bishop of Durham in which this was done. After printing three sheets the bishop returned them requesting that four s be reinstated. As Rivingtons had destroyed the old font, they had to get a

fresh supply cast of long s to gratify the prelate's conservatism. No one would go back to long s now; but how few dare employ a new spelling, to say nothing of a new letter? Are they more courageous than the bishop?—H. D. in *Jur. Or. & Or.*, Oct., '07.

Contrast the unprogressive bishops and this progressive rabbi: The president of Chicago Post-Graduate Medical College, Dr Coleman, told us that a Jewish rabbi came to be taught aseptic surgical methods in performing circumcision. Bishops Thirlwall and Temple are noteworthy exceptions to such assinine stupidity. Authority rules churchmen as Precedent rules lawyers. Dr Gould well says

The stupidest, most disgusting thing in the world is the brute conservatism that refuses all change, good or not good, from stolid unreason. Better (chorea, aye, better epilepsy than absolute paralysis. Conservatism is the sham coyne of linguistic old-maidism, a crinolin fig-leaf of filologic prudery, a fig-leaf, too, not of too much but too little knowledge—indeed, of abysmal ignorance of the language's history.—*Philad'a Medical News*.

DOCTORS TO THE RESCUE.

A remark on p. 194 requires full statement and justification. Dr Sweet advised to make no change in established spelling till a brand-new one had been agreed on by experts. We decline to take the advice. It looks like suicidal delay. Prof. Skeat, too (see our p. 171), expects when continental pronunciation of Latin is general in secondary schools, which he, Postgate and others champion, then the millennium will come redily thru letting abroad so many who do not and appreciate rational vowel representation in pairs. Vain hope! Instead of lying on our oars as in the past, with little but disappointment, we follow a course that yields encouraging results.

What has been done in America since the Spelling Reform Association's broke down on both sides of the Atlantic? The American one, established 1876, was kept alive till 1894; the English one, established 1879, in 1884-5 died. Everything looked "blue."

Strangely, while organized effort lasted individual exertions, expectant, stood paralyzed. These began again ten or twelve years ago, because to wait idly was useless. Wiser thru experience, individuals took a sounder, because more moderate, course.

It is remarkable that most of these were physicians; yet not so strange, since, as Dr Gould, in an address before annual meeting, at Milwaukee, of the Medical Editors Association, explained that

most strange is a dead-blank wall of conservatism by medical men. Their science is progressive, their life harassed and hurried with a crush of duty and opportunities. Every one's experience teaches them to ignore precedent and to cut by shortest route to the end desired. No body of men is more hampered, and in no calling is labor thwarted so much as in theirs, by popular inherited prejudices and old unsluiced snake-skins of quackery, of myth, and of mummery.

On this lower plane much is already done