

# SUNSHINE

VOL. VI.  
No. 5.

MONTREAL

AUGUST,  
1901.

## The Mystery of English.

A Frenchman, thirsting for linguistic superiority, recently began a course of English lessons with a teacher of languages. After toiling conscientiously through a good many exercises, the following dialogue between the pupil and his master was overheard :

"I find the English very difficult," complained the Frenchman. "How do you pronounce t-o-u-g-h?"

"It is pronounced 'tuff.'"

"Eh, bien, 'tuff'; 'snuff,' then, is spelt s-n-o-u-g-h, is it not?"

"Oh, no; 'snuff' is spelt s-n-u-ff. As a matter of fact, words ending in o-u-g-h are somewhat irregular."

"I see. T-o-u-g-h is 'tuff,' and c-o-u-g-h is 'cuff.' I have a very bad 'cuff.'"

"No, it is 'coff,' not 'cuff.'"

"Very well; cuff, tuff and coff. And d-o-u-g-h is 'duff,' eh?"

"No, not 'duff.'"

"'Doff,' then?"

"No; 'doh.'"

"Well, then, what about h-o-u-g-h?"

"That is pronounced 'hock.'"

"'Hock!' Then I suppose the thing the farmer uses, the p-l-o-u-g-h, is 'pluff,' or is it 'phlock,' or 'plo'?"

"No, no; it is pronounced 'plow.'"

"I shall soon master English, I'm sure. Here we go. 'Plow,' 'coff,' 'cuff,' 'hock,' and now here is another—r-o-u-g-h; that is 'row,' I suppose."

"Oh, no, my friend; that's 'ruff' again."

"And b-o-u-g-h is 'buff'?"

"No; that happens to be 'bow.'"

"Yes, and I have just e-n-o-u-g-h of it; that's 'enou,' is it not?"

"No; 'enuff.'"

"Au revoir."



## Almost Criminal.

Life assurance is now so reliable that its neglect seems almost criminal.

—Troy (N. Y.) Times.



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