

cumbersome as well as being dishonest and absurd. It does not fully represent our spoken language and is getting farther and farther away from it all the time and therefore to keep up such a farce is not becoming to a sensible people.

Apart from its relation to the foreigner our intricate and disordered spelling also places a direct burden upon every native user of English. It wastes a large part of the time and effort given to the instruction of our children, keeping them for example from one to two years behind the school-children of Germany and condemning many of them to alleged illiteracy all their days. Moreover the printing, typewriting and handwriting of useless letters which our spelling perscribes and upon which its difficulty chiefly rests, wastes every year millions of dollars and time and effort worth millions more. If then, as is certain, the reasonable and gradual simplification of our spelling will aid the spread of English, with the attendant advancement of commerce and of intellectual freedom; will economize the time of our school-children and make their work more efficient; and will aid greatly in the cheapening of printing, is it not a matter which appeals to common sense, to patriotism, and to philanthropy?

The slight changes in the words proposed represent nothing but that unconscious movement which has made students as well as mechanics write plow for plough, that which makes most people write honor without the somewhat absurd "u," just as all who speak English now write bat, set, dim, sum, fish, while in former ages they wrote batte, sette, dimme, summe and fysch, that same unconscious movement which makes us write "public, almanac, fantasy and wagon" instead of the ancient publick, almanack, phantasy and waggon. In the same direction as this unconscious movement, have President Roosevelt and his associates very carefully proceeded and have concluded that there are general analogies upon which rules of a certain kind may be founded and it is within the range of possibility to extend these rules by the elimination of the exception. No sweeping change is necessary and there will be no ground for the charge of radicalism. The President in advocating this movement has not the slightest intention of doing anything revolutionary towards the Mother language, but as an enthusiastic admirer of the Anglo-Saxon tongue he sees no reason why it should not become as widely dominant as the race. He believes that the straightening of