

place and somewhat mercenary affair. If it has birth and fostering care in the voluntary efforts of the friends of the higher education, we have little doubt that a really fresh and most valuable instrument for intellectual and moral advancement is easily within our reach. We trust the leaders of the movement will not fail to see their opportunity, and by well-ordered and patient effort, gradually develop a lasting and ever-growing organization which shall at once strengthen our existing institutions and render their stores of knowledge readily available to an increasing number of communities throughout Canada. Local effort must be stimulated, and opportunity enlarged.

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Only the other day we heard one learned professor ask another at his elbow how to spell *sibyl*. Even after hearing the two scholars discuss this word, we have not been able to write it here without first consulting Webster. Now why should citizens of a free and enlightened country, men of this age of unprecedented progress, need to hesitate for one instant over such matters? Why not simply write as we speak and speak as we write, as they do in Kaiser William's country? Why should any man of good morals be compelled to offend his sense of the fitness of things by writing *dough*, after having, but a moment ago, in all good conscience, simply written *so*? Why, we ask again, should any man in this busy age, be forced to remember, along with a thousand other things of vastly greater importance, that he may write *breeze*, but not *cheese*; or *berth*, but not *erth* or *derth*; and so on, through hundreds of instances? The persistency with which English speaking people, in whatever quarter of the globe they are found, cling to mediævalism in spelling, while ruthlessly rejecting even the most cherished customs and beliefs of their fathers in so many other directions, is an inconsistency which cannot be praised or admired. Why should not the students of McMaster University be allowed and even encouraged to adopt phonetic spelling, and throw down forever another of the burdens which neither they nor their fathers ought ever to have been required to bear?