

GERMANY is cursed with two sets of shapes for each letter - relic of the middle ages. So we had our old 'black letter' - it died out in the Tudor period with us but is more prevalent in Germany still than the Roman characters so generally used by other nations. Adoption of Roman shapes only (*Nur Lateinschrift*) is one of two rallying cries among those who favor Revised Orthography there - the other being a demand for omission of unnecessary or superfluous letters (*Keine ueberfluessigen buchstaben mehr.*) Germans begin every noun with a capital letter. Besides the two points specified they now advocate a use of capitals as by other nations. Altho German orthography needs Revision not one fourth as much as ours, yet they are both more active and more advanced than we. There are two principal societies. 'The German S. R. A.' (*Deutscher Orthografie-Reform Verein*), of which Dr W. Viator, professor of English philology in the University of Marburg, is the head, supports a journal of high rank (*Zeitschrift fur Orthografie, Orthoepie, und Sprachphysiologie.*) which is edited by Dr W. Viator, with the co-operation of many eminent scholars. It devotes itself to the scientific side of the problems within its scope. The "General Assoc for Simplified German Spelling" (*Allgemeiner Verein fur einfache deutsche Rechtschreibung*), is in its tenth year. Its organ, *Reform*, which is devoted mainly to the practical or popular side of the movement, is edited by the President, Dr F. W. Fricke, of Wiesbaden. It is noteworthy that *a* is chosen for flat or Italian *a* as in *arm*, a vowel of frequent occurrence in German. It is rare in English. If *th* occur in German, the *th* is sounded *t* only and *h* quite silent. By authority of the Education Department, omission of the *h* is not only allowed but favored. They appear to retain *h* in words from Greek *theta*. General omission of this superfluous *h* is made by newspapers. We are indebted to Mr C. Doebler of this town for papers from Berlin, Prussia, two or three years ago, which exemplified this. Privat letters tell him that the Prussian minister of education would go much farther and faster but the death or political fall of Bismarck might bring in a new ministry who would undo such advances. Meantime they go so far as

no reasonable man can "go back on" - so should we. Mr D. has a correspondent named Rudolph who now signs *Rudolf*. Most English-speaking nations have so much arrogant conceit and supercilious self-sufficiency as to look on all foreigners as gentiles, heathens and barbarians. It would be better if we 'took a leaf out of their book' - several of them for that matter. In some respects the old world countries are more progressive than 'Free America!' Our newspapers could easily, and should forthwith, make the general change of *ph* to *f* and frequent dropping of the more manifestly useless silent letters. Our Bureaus of Education and colleges should insist on sound methods of teaching Orthoepy of our own and all other Modern Languages. This would stop the present reckless pronunciation not only permitted but taught in colleges and schools. The sooner the Department and our teachers wake up to this *fact* the better for themselves and pupils.

FRANCE. - In Paris, they have an Association of Teachers of English by Phonetic Methods. Prof. Paul Passy is treasurer and a moving spirit. Prof. P. has the chair of Modern Languages in *l'Ecole Normale* and is thoroughly versed in such. They have found that the best way to teach pronunciation of English is by the *eye* having a printed shape for each distinctly marked sound. Pupils acquire a better pronunciation than by *ear* alone. Success at the August examinations was quite marked. So far a twelve-vowel alphabet has been employed. Primers in French and German have been published by the same indefatigable worker. The germ thus planted appears to have sprouted and to be growing with vigor. Our Normal Schools and colleges should not be behind foreigners in adopting improved methods of teaching accurate pronunciation of our own and of other tongues, but especially of our own.

NOVA SCOTIA has an active worker in Principal McKay who contributes a close two-column article to the *Halifax Herald* indicating lines of advance in several educational methods, one being Rectification of Spelling on a *sound* basis. We shall insert the latter part at an early day. Follow his example.