

an average, two years of the life of every person who becomes fairly proficient in it. It presents such obstacles to the young learner's progress, that many either turn aside or fail to advance beyond the necessary elements of an education. It robs of its destiny the language which in all other respects is best fitted to become universal. It repels foreigners and injures commerce. To print its silent letters costs millions of dollars every year. It disguises the historical development of our speech. It is, in short, one of the great hindrances to progress of civilization—like the spelling of the Chinese, though not so bad. "No wonder we have no Shakespeares in these days of spelling drill. No wonder so many geniuses arise outside the ranks of the school-trained." A large majority, if not all of the greatest scholars of the age, who have studied the question, are in favor of reform spelling. The difficulties of its introduction would not be serious, even to those who have finished their school career.

3. Many of our present letters are unnecessarily complex. With logograms for the most frequently recurring words, and with much simpler forms for letters, the labor of committing our thoughts to writing would be very greatly reduced. What might thus be saved in time and material would practically be so much added to human life at its best.

These improvements must be brought about by the united action of all the provinces of the Empire and all the states of the Union. "Evolution, in the future, is going to do business on improved principles as compared with the past. It will prevent, under the reign of science, the reproduction of the unfit, and so save all the loss of energy involved first in the rearing of the unfit; and secondly, in the destruction of the unfit. Under the guidance of the higher reason of man, evolutionary change may be hurried on with tenfold the old rapidity, and with an hundred fold less cost to existing organisms."

A writer in the "Pall Mall Budget" says: I hear that a respectable north-country merchant has invented a means for getting to Australia in twelve hours—a means so simple that I fancy it must have occurred to a good many people already. Everyone knows that the world spins round on its axis once in twenty-four hours. Whence it is clear that, if you hang yourself up somewhere and wait, in twelve hours Australia will be under your feet, and you will only have to step down in order to be comfortably there. The good merchant proposes to send passengers up in a well-appointed balloon, where they will wait until Australia comes round. It is an admirable scheme. Can your pupils explain why this scheme would not work?

Hope Long Deferred.

Year by year, and day by day,
She lived in hope of brighter pay;
She saw the city prosperous grow,
She saw the school-house overflow,
With hosts of children large and small—
And patiently she taught them all.
And as the seasons swiftly flew
She sometimes taught their children too!
Through weary months of busy days,

raise!

a

get

to

The schoolma'am hoped

She did all that a woman could;
Her arguments were sound and good.
She drew petitions up so fine
That all the people ran to sign.
The common council all agreed
That she should have it, yes, indeed.
The board of education made
Long, smiling promises of aid,
While out of all the tangled maze

raise!

a

get

to

The schoolma'am hoped

At last it seemed the way was cleared;
At last the needed funds appeared.
But still the board could not decide
Just how these funds should be applied.
Raise by experience? Or by grade?
So still they wavered and delayed.
They weeded out a girl or two
Who didn't have enough to do
These surely were the halcyon days

raise!

a

get

to

The schoolma'am hoped

But weary decades came and went,
Until her faithful life was spent;
And now across her lonely grave
The long green grasses gently wave.
Her tombstone, in its ancient place,
Stands up, yet lies upon its face.
For though it says she has gone higher,
I know her soul must still aspire,
And lingering, long for Gabriel's days,

raise!

a

gets

When every schoolma'am

—Florence May Alt.

All the best cultivation of the child's mind is obtained by the child's own exertions.—Dr. Temple.