

LITERATURE.

SOLOMON'S SONG with Introduction and Notes, by C. W. Larison, M.D., Fonic Publishing House, Ringos, N. J., 1887, 64 pp., 16 mo. Cloth boards. Mailing price 55 cents.

It is alwys more pleasant to report progress than the revers. This lil book, in a 12-vowel alfabet, is an improvement on some of Dr. Larison's former works in so far as he has dropt all markt letters and now denotes diference of sound by diferentiation only. By improvement being thus noted, the reader may fairly infer that ther wer blemishes in previus works not found in this which wer not pointed out. Ther is still room for further improvement. We fear that his pronunciation wil not be accepted in all points. The pure gold must be refined by fire—the fire of critical comparison wil purify this. We content ourselvs by recommending the reader to get the book, examin it carefully, but critically, and send his likes and dislikes to the author, as a means of "seting him right" where yu conceiv him wrong. The publication ads another to an already fast-growing bibliography. It is a worthy addition, one that must hav cost much tho't and care. Those who do, like Dr. L., ar a hundredfold more serviceabl than those who talk only.

SWEDISH & SPANISH.—In Sweden, where certn amendments hav been admitted by the Academy, the speling agitation continues. The Neografers don't hesitate to aply their principls to works they publish. It is in Amended Sp that Prof. Noreen, of University of Upsala, has printed his history of Nors Languages (*De Nordiska spraken*) and his remarkabl treatis on the Corection of Languages (*on Språkriktighet*). Profs. Tegner, Lyttkens and Wulff hav done the same. Nations even who enjoy an orthog. comparatively rational ar trying to improve it. Thus, the Spaniards, whose orthograpy, after several reforms, has become almost fonetic, now demand supresion of ç, g soft, v (useles with them?) and h mute.—*Buletin Mensuel*. How improvements already made in Spanish orthog. wer bro't about wud be interesting. We hav for a long time been trying to find some account of it. Treatises on Spanish lang. and literature ar silent so far as we no. Is it not within the province of the *Buletin Mensuel* to giv us a history of Amended Sp. in Spain, as also in Sweden and Holland? In Spain's sister kingdom, Portugal, sp. is stil very irregular.

Young Eighty-eight,
We pat your peight,
And trust you'll not decrease in weight.
Be tempereight,
Tobacco height,
And don't stay out until its leight.

DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLS.

"1. The tru and sole office of alfabetic riting is faithfully and inteligibly to represent spoken speech. So-called "historical" orthograpy is only concession to weaknes of prejudice.

"2. The ideal of an alfabet is that evry sound shud hav its own unvarying sign, and evry sign its own unvarying sound.

"3. An alfabet intended for use by a vast community need not attempt an exhaustive analysis of elements of utterance, and a representation of the nicest varieties of articulation; it may wel leav room for the unavoidable play of individual and local pronunciation.

"4. An ideal alfabet wud seek to adopt for its characters forms which shud suggest the sounds signified, and of which the resemblances shud in some mesure represent similaritis of sounds. But for general practical use ther is no advantage in a system which aims to depict in detail the fysical proceses of utterance.

"5. No language has ever had, or is likely to hav, a perfect alfabet: and in changing and amending the mode of riting a language already long ritn, regard must necessarily be had to what is practically possibl quite as much as to what is inherently desirabl.

"6. To prepare the way for such change, the first step is to break down by combined influence of enlightnd scolars and practical educators, the immens and stubborn prejudice which regards establisht modes of speling almost as constituting language, as having a character, as in themselvs preferabl to others. All agitation and all definit proposals of reform ar welcomed, so far as they work in this direction.

"7. An alterd orthograpy wil be unavoidably offensiv to those who ar first calld upon to use it, but any sensibl and consistent new system wil rapidly win harty preference of mas of riters.

"8. The Roman alfabet is so widely and firmly establisht in use among leading civilized nations that it can not be displaced: in adapting it to improved use for English, the efforts of scolars shud be directed tords its use with uniformity, and in conformity with other nations."—*Buletin*.

—Compare laughter and slaughter.

—*Antipyryn*, a new remedy, is the way they spel it in Germany, where it originated. Why do many of our papers put a final silent e after it, for which ther is no justification, as last sylabl is not accented? Even the *Philad. Med. World* givs it as "antipyryne." We hav too many worse than useless leters already—giv us relief from new ones! Dont forget to drop e from the endings ine and ile in unaccented syllabls (as genuin, fertil, hostil, etc.) as the silent e leads to faulty pronunciation.