

*REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON VARIANT SPELLINGS.**

Your Committee notes that the German language has of late attained an orthography made uniform, or free from variants, which becomes operative by State enactments this April. Hitherto, differing spelling-books have been used in Baden, Bavaria, Mecklenburg, Prussia, Saxony, Württemberg, Austria, and Switzerland. All are now made to coincide, "a consummation devoutly to be wished" for our language.

This continent, from the Gulf States to the Arctic Ocean, is full of Indian names derived from Algonkin and other stocks of languages. Fenimore Cooper, in the Introduction of one of his novels ("The Last of the Mohicans"), says that the spelling of these names is in a state of utter confusion, a condition still true, unfortunately. A preliminary found necessary to setting these in order is to have a vocabulary of, say, 2000 words, with principal meanings for each, and a list of radicals, say, 200 or 300 in number, from which these spring. At a meeting of Americanists in New York City last October, your Committee took steps, thro' Ontario's representative, Mr. Boyle, to ask Americanists to make such vocabulary and list of radicals. It resulted in appointment of a committee likely to report to the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

"The New English Dictionary" (N E D), under the editorship of Dr. Murray and others, gives, after the etymology of any word, in many cases, authoritative statements as to spellings preferred, where they vary. It has been thought well to pay respectful attention to this, as both more authoritative and more recent than other lexicons. But of N E D little more than half is in print. Accordingly, it was thought well to confine this year's report to words beginning with "A," and to proceed to other letters in subsequent years. Herewith is submitted a list of preferred spellings of words in "A," with appended notes in some cases.

A Canada Board on Geographic Names has been established, and made a Fourth Report. Its Fifth Report, promised this year, will be a consolidation of previous reports. Your Committee think well

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