

scarcely necessary to say, Mr. Carnegie has been putting his shoulder, mighty with the weight of dollars and cents, to the spelling-reform juggernaut. Under that impetus, "crossed" promises to become "crost," "clasped" "claspst," "catalogue" "catalog," "scythe" "sithe"—in fact, old things (presumably) will pass away, and our books will issue forth in a brand-new yet strangely-familiar dress, reminding us, somehow, of our "second-part-of-the-first-book" days, when we calmly wrote "Ame hi is a good moto" on our little slates, and marched up afterwards to interview the teacher and the strap.

What if, with long-since educated eyes, we have to puzzle over these strange, new-old sentences half an hour, wondering what in creation they mean! What though the printed page looks as antiquated and "queer" as a 1906 bank clerk in the knickers and choker of a Micawber, or a modern society belle in "coal-scuttle" and "paddysoy"?—we will have the satisfaction, at least, of reading something up-to-date, of realizing that we are living in a very much Twentieth-century atmosphere, in a new era, a grand, glorious, iconoclastic, non-brain-racking, free, do-as-you-please Twentieth-century Golden Era, which has suddenly dawned upon the world.

Think of the compensations when you go to write a letter! If you don't know how to spell a word, make a dash for it anyway. Nobody will know the difference. If they do, they will only give you credit for being up-to-date and progressive. How you will hug yourself at the thought! What a chance to become up-to-date and progressive, and a benefactor to the cause of literature—all without the least bit of trouble in the world! And what a comfort not to have to keep a dictionary at your elbow when you write to your best girl! What a relief not to feel the slightest tremor as you put on the stamp, lest some pesky little bunch of syllables has given you away! Little wonder it is that, in very exuberance of thankfulness, Queen's, speaking for a whole continent, should have bubbled over with a big I.L.D. on the very tip-top of the overflow.

Joking aside, however, Mr. Carnegie, owing to his well-known efforts in behalf of education, his establishment of libraries, endowment of the hero fund, etc., would seem a very worthy object of such an honor.

Joking aside, too, the projected spelling upheaval does not appear to be as formidable as might be imagined. So far, the words selected are chiefly such as may be changed without giving a severe mental shock to the ex-winners of the old-time spelling matches. A few leading periodicals, e.g., New York Independent,

have already fastened upon such differences as "tho" for "though," "thoro" for "thorough," "thru" for "through," "plow" for "plough," etc., and no one, as yet, has taken hysterics because of the innovation.

The only danger is that the spelling committee, over-zealous in good works (one wonders if any of them were ever winners in the above-mentioned old-time spelling matches), may carry the thing too far. Already, "as a first step," a list of 300 simplified words has been drawn up. May the fates help us if they launch three or four more such steps upon us? In such a case, what is the next generation to do? Books of to-day will have become as difficult as Chaucer. Will, then, the Governments go to the expense of

schools. To a certain extent this objection is justifiable: "tho" for "though," "thru" for "through," "center" for "centre," etc., might very well be substituted. Nevertheless, there will certainly have to be some standard system, and anyone who has ever taught school knows that pupils by no means agree on what should constitute the phonetic spelling of a difficult word. By the time one has heard half a dozen spellings of the same word from as many different children, one is somewhat at a loss to know which should prove generally easiest. For some children even the most improved method will scarcely be easy, and spelling drill will still be necessary. The British authors, almost to a man, have gone against spelling reform. In America the campaign is

chapped chapt  
missed mist  
dropped dropt  
kissed kist  
lopped lopt  
blushed blusht  
clapped clapt

clipped clipt  
confessed confest  
distressed distrest  
fixed fixt  
crushed crusht  
dipped dipt  
crossed crost  
caressed carest

That "er" be adopted wherever "re" is now used, in such words as "accoutre," "centre," "calibre."

That "e" be dropped from such words as acknowledgment and abridgement, and they be written "acknowledgment" and "abridgment."

That the diphthongs æ and œ be reduced in the following manner: Anæmia anemia; anæsthetic anesthetic; mediæval mediæval; pæan pean; æolian æolian; ægis, egis; œsophagus esophagus.

That the final "ue" be dropped in such words as "catalogue" and "decalogue," the final "te" in such words as "cigarette," "croquette" and "omelette," the final "me" in "programme" and "gramme," and the final "e" where not needed for guidance in pronunciation in such words as "develope," "antipyrine," "glycerine," "axe," and "woe."

That the "u" be considered bad form in such words as "ardour," "humour" and "honour."

That "z" be used instead of "s" in such words as "advertise," "braise" and "apprise," and that "s" take the position of "c" in "offence," "licence," and kindred words.

Other spellings which are recommended are: "mama" for "man-ma," "maneuver" for "manœuver and manœuvre," "pur" for "purrr," "jail" for "gaol," "bans" for "banns," "fantasy" for "phantasy," "sylvan" for "sylvan," "simitar" for "cimeter" and "scimitar," and the half dozen or more other spellings, "sithe" for "scythe," "tho" for "though," "thoro" for "thorough," "thorofare" for "thoroughfare," "thoroly" for "thoroughly," "thru" for "through," "thruout" for "throughout," "altho" for "although," "check" for "cheque," "controller" for "comptroller," "clue" for "clew," "cue" for "queue," "subpena" for "subpena," and "apothegm" for "apothegm."

It is also recommended that the extra "l" be dropped from such words as "calliper" and "traveler."

### Phonetic Spelling in Hard Luk.

The editor decided to try "tonetic" spelling in his paper, and the experiment seemed a success until he got the following:

"Dere Sur: I hev tuk yure paper fur leven yerres, butt ef yew kant spel eny beter then hev bin doin fer last to munths yew ma jes stoppit."

—[The American Spectator.



Fig. 1.—Iris and Dogwood Blooming along the banks of the still pool.

having every volume in the world reprinted according to approved methods? And will the old tomes be burned in state in the public squares, surrounded by the beaming faces of bald-headed "never-could-spell-ems," and the demoniacal, gleeful howls of the public-school fry, rejoicing that there can be no more "lickins" for bad spelling? Or will the ponderous libraries of today, even Carnegie's, stand as everlasting curios, mementos of a by-gone, letter-entangled, word-enslaved age, while Tennyson and Thackeray, and Old Noll, are laboriously translated in Collegiate corridors with the aid of a smuggled "key"? Oh, there are things, and things, and things to be considered!

One of the objections to the present method is the loss of time spent on learning spelling in the public

being received with greater favor. By the time Mr. Carnegie's \$15,000 a year for five years, in behalf of the scheme, has been expended, a few words will probably have been crystallized in their new form. Provided the innovation is not carried too far, we think it may be commendable. Let it be pushed beyond the limit, and may we foretell—there are likely to be rocks.

### IMPROVEMENTS IN SPELLING.

(Suggested by the Committee in charge of the Spelling-reform Movement. From New York Tribune.)

The following are some of the recommendations the list will contain:

That "ed" and "sed" be replaced by "t" in such words as the following:

addressed address claspst clapt

The plague is again devastating India. Five thousand deaths a week have been the average for some time.

The Czar's refusal to co-operate with Count Witte in certain bureaucratic movements to restrict the authority of the Duma, in consequence of which the Count resigned the Premiership, would seem to indicate, either that the Czar is fully alarmed because of the demands of the Russian people, or that he has become convinced of the superiority of the limited-monarchy form of government. M. Goremykin, Count Witte's successor, is said to have shown little ability in his former position as Minister of the Interior, and there are fears that he may not prove equal to the task of tiding the country through the present crisis.

Uncle Jerry Peebles was looking over the list of "amended spellings" recommended by the reformers.

"Good land!" he exclaimed. "I don't see nothin' strange in them words. That's the way I've alius spelled 'em."

## News of the Day.

### Canadian.

Mr. Wm. Sherring, of Hamilton, Ont., won the great Marathon race during the Olympic games at Athens, Greece. Linden, also a Canadian, captured second in the walking contest.

Application has been made for a wireless-telegraphy station at Hailybury, New Ontario.

It has been announced that Dr. W. J. Goodhue, at present medical superintendent of the leper settlement at Molokai, Hawaii, has discovered the germ of leprosy in the mosquito and the bedbug. The discovery will assist greatly in battling with the disease. Dr. Goodhue was born at Arthabaskaville, Que., in 1869.

Hon. Peter White, M. P., ex-speaker of the House of Commons, died at a sanitarium at Clifton Springs, N. Y., on May 3rd. Mr. White was 67 years of age.

### British and Foreign.

The reconstruction of San Francisco is now fully under way, and small armies of idle men are finding work clearing away the debris.

England and the Sultan have found cause of difference over the removal of some boundary pillars on the Northern Egyptian frontier and the occupation of Tabah by the Turks.

Tracy Lake, Cal., has been completely dried up as a result of the earthquake.

Serious tornadoes in Texas during the past fortnight have caused much destruction of property and some loss of life.

Serious collisions between Turks and Greeks have again been occurring in Macedonia.

Mt. Hecla, Iceland, has been emitting ashes and smoke. So far the eruption has not been serious.

## With the Flowers.

### Flowers by Pool and Hillside.

An issue or so ago, there appeared in this department of "The Farmer's Advocate" the reprint of an article by Wm. Whitman Bailey, pleading for the preservation of our native roadside flowers. The point of that article was particularly against the inveterate mower, who can let no form of beauty stand, preferring brown stubble to the growing wilderness of bracken and jewel weed—the species of man who cannot rest until every tree along his farm and through his fields is cut down, and who ruthlessly sacrifices a wind-break to his crops, and shelter from the hot sun for his cattle, for the sake of a fancied "neatness." Often, this predatory animal is a "reuter," who, utterly regardless of the sentiment of the owner, makes way with the choicest landmarks of the farm, possibly for the sake of convenient firewood. Only the other day we heard the owner of a farm lament such a sacrifice of two or three magnificent specimens of walnut and maple. "I'd rather have lost a hundred dollars than that walnut," he said.

To return to Mr. Bailey's article, how-