

writers. Is it not a matter of regret to have attached to so many English words two and three words spelling nothing and meaning nothing apart from acting as souvenirs of their derivation? Again, take our dictionaries and in them you will find a wide difference of opinion as to the spelling of many words. There is no reason for a condition of this kind for words should be spelled in one way and that way should be correct instead of having three different ways for spelling the same word and all three ways correct.

This reform is not unreasonable nor is President Roosevelt advocating it without assistance. The Board of Simplified Spelling is wholly composed of men most prominent in educational movements and among them we find Mr. W. J. Harris, editor of the latest edition of Webster's Dictionary. Mr. P. G. Scott, editor of the Century, and we also have the editor of the Standard Dictionary, Mr. I. A. Funk. The steps they have taken are coincident with the views of the ablest and most practical educators of our time as well as the most profound scholars. Therefore in view of the influential men supporting the reformed spelling it cannot be said to be foreign as the region of reason and practicality. The purpose of this organization (S. S. B.) is to expedite the natural process of change which has been going on for centuries and, as far as may be possible, of guiding it in the direction of simplicity and economy. It will urge educated people everywhere to aid in the gradual simplification of English spelling, and thus help to make the English language more and more easy to acquire and to use.

All whose mother-tongue is English believe that if it is not unfairly handicapped it will become the dominant and international language of the world. For this destiny it is fitted by its use as the medium of the widest commerce and the most progressive civilization, by its cosmopolitan vocabulary, and by its grammatical simplicity. No other existing speech and none of the proposed artificial international languages, has the same adaptability to such a use. There is however a widespread and well grounded conviction, that in its progress towards this goal, our language is handicapped by one thing and one thing only—its intricate and disordered spelling, which makes it a puzzle to the stranger within our gates and a mystery to the stranger beyond the seas. English is easy, adaptable, and capable of a many-sided development; its spelling is difficult and