

For these reasons the public are called upon to adopt phonetic reform : but having heard the demand and having learned the arguments upon which it is based, the public continue the even tenor of their way. The things that have been, are, and we trust, shall be.

We entertain the wish we have expressed for several reasons. In the first place, our sense of the fitness of things causes us to shrink from following even the more moderate reformers in writing *benty*, *skul*, *leag*, *prolog*, *hopt*, etc. ; and further, we fear that the danger of our becoming dyspeptic would be much increased, if we were compelled each morning to look upon a bill of fare headed *Brekfast*. In the second place, we have no desire to see that literary wealth which we find stored up in the forms of words blotted out, for we believe, with Archbishop Trench, that there is no conceivable method "of so

effectually defacing and barbarizing our English tongue, of practically emptying it of all the hoarded wit, wisdom, imagination, and history which it contains, of cutting the vital nerve which connects its present with its past, as the introduction of the scheme of phonetic spelling," which finds so many zealous advocates. Finally, we have been accustomed to look upon our language as a living growth governed by laws of its being, and we have no wish to change it for a "machine made" tongue.

Indeed, when we consider with what difficulty new words have been introduced into our speech, and what failure has ever attended attempts to control the development of language, we feel safe in concluding that spelling reformers shall be compelled to be content with such moderate and gradual changes in that direction as time shall sanction.

