

HOW IT CAME ABOUT.—Our grandmother tung, the Anglo-Saxon, had a pretty good alfabet. The Roman misionaris who converted the nation redust the language to riting in Roman lets with their comon Latin powers, ading a few runes and digrafs for sounds which did not ocur in Latin. Our woos sprang from the Norman conquest. The French and Anglo-Saxons united to form the English nation, and their languages wer thrown into a sort of hotch-potch to wer the English language. Many words of each nation wer hard for the others to pronounce. They wer spelt by the scolars to whom they wer nativ in the old book fashn, but peopl did not pronounce them corectly. Many lets wer left silent or inserted to no purpos, in il-directed atempts to represent the strange combinations. Then great changes took place in the hole gamut, so to speak, of our vowel sounds. Peopl hardly knew what was the matr as the change went on. We finaly arived at a sort of Chinese ideografic system. The rith words ar asociated with tho'ts without referene to the sounds which separat lets indicate. Changes in sounds of words go on with no record in the riting. Ingenius etymologists slip in new silent lets as records of history drawn from their imagination, old monsters fertil in the popular fancy propagate themselves in the congenial environments, and altogether we hav ataind the worst speling on the planet.—*March.*

— The fault in our present speling is that we hav contradictory analogis whereas we o't to hav harmonius ones. We hav *coat* and *note*, *dine* and *sign*, *beauty* and *duty*, *rite* and *right*, *fate*, *wait* and *weight*, and others. I submit that the reduction of our speling to uniform analogical principls is the first step, at any rate, in Speling Reform. For my own part, I consider it is the only reform needed. I submit also that it is a practicabl reform; and my opinion is that to aim at more, if it be not even to atempt a mischivus thing is to uterly waste one's efforts. Had a tithe of the agitation against our speling been directed against our incongruus analogis, something might hav been acomplisht.—J. B., in *Newswal Cronicle*.

COLOQUIAL PRONUNCIATION.—A cote-noporary givs the foloing as a sampl of the colloquial orthoëpy curent among boys:—  
 "Warejego lasnigh?" "Hadder skate."  
 "Jerfind the ice hard'nood?" "Yes;  
 hard'nough." "Jer goerlone?" "No;  
 Bill'n Joe wenterlonz." "Howlate jerstay?" "Pastate." "Lemmeno wenyergoin, woncher? I wanter go'nsho-oyer howto skate." "H'm, ficoodn' skate better'n you I'd sell out 'nquit." "Well, we'll tryerace 'nseefyercan."

### A RECEIPT FOR COLD FEIPT.

For nothing at all we will give a receipt  
 For pleasantly warming in winter your foipt.

First see that the shoes or the boots you may  
 Are polish<sup>wear</sup>ed each morning with scrupulous  
 care.

This reason is founded on science, you know,  
 And will, if it's followed, relieve you of wow.

Don't purchase a tight-fitting boot or a shoe,  
 But got a size largor, or, better, got toe.

Be sure they are stout ones and perfectly whole,  
 Madelow in the heel, thick and broad in the wole.

Then oiling them, go without rubbers, which  
 An't make your feet tender through coldness and  
 sweat.

Some folks cotton stockings prefer, but they  
 Wear socks made of woolen as those are more  
 should  
 Gould.

For feet, like you: face which in winter is bare,  
 Grow tough when exposed to the frost in the are.

No chilblains will itch you or give you an ache  
 If, when 't is bad-time, ice-l water you'll tache

And plunge your feet in it—then rub 'em with  
 might  
 Until they grow scarlet and—probably whight.

Now toast 'em awhile by the grato, and, I guess  
 You'll find this receipt for cold feet a success.

N. B.

Some husbands, who think they're sharp as a  
 knife  
 Will warn their cold feet on a poor, sleepy  
 kwife.

That's cold-blooded murder for which women wise  
 Should get a divorce from such marital tise.

JENNIE KERR, in *Phrenological Journal*.

BISMARCK AND THE GERMAN ALFABET.—Prince Bismarck has been the most go-ahed of practical statesmen, but on one point he is obstinat and retrograde. For ten years ther has been a stedy effort made all over Germany to get rid of the Germ in character in printing and riting. \* \* \* Six years ago he cause'd certn manuals at the Chancery that had been printed in Latin characters to be reprinted in Gothic type. Ther was great outcry at the time, and men of sience aserted that the prevalence of near-sight among the German peopl was due to this trying and minute type. But the Chancelor never yields, and now within the week he has sent bak several blu books issued by the Berlin Magistracy and had them reprinted for his own convenience in the type he defends.—*Pall Mall Gazette*.

POOR LETT 'G.—*The Duchess*: "Yes, 'skattin' wud be charmin' if it wern't for the freezin' stoppin' the huntin'! *Lord Charles*: "Yes, and ain't sleighin' toppin' fun, except for the snowin' spoilin' the skatin'!"—*Punch*.