

a tru indication of rhythm, without halt or ruf jar to the reader. Much poetry of the day does this; which wil not be so if authors insist on printers bringing out by literary form what musical rhythm is in the vers. Much of Homer's charm lies in musical rhythm, the verses being polisht and perfected in rhythm thru oral repetition by generation after generation of reciters before Pisistratus had them put in riting and so prompted Anakreon to sing

"Giv me the harp of epic song  
Which Homer's fingers thrill'd along."

McLachlan uzed the foloing feet chiefly: trochee, iambus, anapest, dactyl. His use of anapests and dactyls shows much power. We hold it to be the printer's duty to cause this to shine out as in this volume. If the printer become a tyrant and insists that the music of poesy shal be mard by the castiron wordforms of fixt speling he caries a good thing to harmful lengths. Modern versifiers shud resist this and all readers shud bak them up. At presnt the printer holds sway almost absolute. Tru, such forms as *o'er*, *e'er*, *ne'er* ar stil comon in vers. They shud be not only retaind but hav their number increast if music in poetry is to stay and not be murderd by ruthles printers with invariabl wordforms in which ar stereotyped meter-marring silent leters. In some remarks made in these pages (April, '98) on "Revizing a Hymnal" we gave illustrations of betering of lines for choir purpos. A set tune is a guide over a ruf place for the singer, but readers lak this. Spelings like these ar comon in the volume:

ax, plow, tho', altho', mold, wisht, enwrapt, wrapt, woful, ay (yes), aye (ever), O (vocativ), Oh (interjection), sovran (poetic form of sovereign, like corse for corpse), rime, tow'rs, flow'r, etc., (where rime or meter requires one syllabl).

NEWS-NOTES AND COMENTS.

—This invites *yu* to subscribe.

—*The Annual of New Speling* for 1900 is redy—postpaid, 10 cents; per dozen, 60 cents.

—A belated survival of use of I for J is worth recording: A flat stone 25 feet north of the northern end of the cathedral (so-cald) at corner of Church and King st's, Toronto, is put there in memory of "JOHN BIRD, who departed this life September 1, 1830." The stone is broken thru the word September, but name and year ar perfectly legibl. Introduction of j as a consonant began about 1625 and soon came into regular use. Tru, j was in use before that as a taild or flurisht i, and uzed as a vowel. Ii performd the functions that Jj does now. The stone now mentiond shows that ocasional use of I for J lasted two centuries later.

—The Leipzig *Neueste Nachrichten* of 14th July givs some facts that sho how genral in Germany is that considerabl degree of amended spelingcald Puttkamer's Speling (Puttkamerische Schreibung) compulsorily introduced in Prussian scools in 1880. Puttkamer was Minister of Education in the Bismarck regime. A Book-

selers' Board of Trade (Boersenverein) adrest a circular to German publishing firms asking how far they uzed the "new," amended speling and how far the "old." Of 613 firms that replied, 406 uzed the new only; 58, the old only; 141, both; 8 uzed Austrian amended speling. Of the 141 uzing both, 59 uzed the new mainly; 30, the old mainly; 52 uzed both equally. 340 of the 613 giv statistical estimats of their output for 1899. They print 247 periodicals and 4623 books in new style; 189 periodicals and 864 books in the old. Among them is a number of firms who especially print legal and state papers, editions of the statutes, that retain the old style only becaus the authorities do, and becaus statutes ar printed exactly in acord with ofical compilations. So, OVER FIVE-SIXTHS OF THE BOOKS, an overwhelming majority, and NEARLY THREE-FIFTHS OF THE PERIODICALS FOR 1899 AR IN NEW STYLE! Ther is stil requisit only accesion of imperial and other state authorities (who yet persist in conservatism difficult to explain) to bring about almost complete uniformity of German orthograpy in book and periodic literature. Then the daily pres wil folo in greater number than heretofore.

—Replies to the Leipzig circular referd to above bring out this fact (acording to *Neueste Nachrichten*, quoted in *Reform*): A singl firm estimates cost of replacing its stereotype plates (dictionaries), reseting included, at 700,000 marks! For sake of insignificant changes, such sacrifices wil not be demanded of the publishing trade. The time is yet distant for real reform. For that, careful preparation must be made. It must rest on a sound scientific basis, and must be asured beforehand of genral acceptance not only in scools, but also by the authorities and the pres.

—Revized Speling in France (for optional use): The Superior Council of Public Instruction hav just made a decision that wil caus great stir: remodifying French gramar, widespred in direction of simplifying syntax and speling. Commencing with substantivs: aigle, amour, orgue, hynne, automne, enfant, œuvre, orge, period, paques, gens, til now of doubtful gender, ar made plain. Proper names and foren words, whose plurals wer ful of pitfalls, ar included. Before a proper name the artciel is no longer obligatory. Yu may rite *de bons fruits* or *des bons fruits*; *le plus*, *le moins*, or *les plus*, *les moins*. Retched compound words, with doubtful conection, uncertn hyfens and apostrofes, plurals without rule (the nightmare of children), now can be combined as singl words, with final s in plural. Hyfens and apostrofes ar deliberately condemd in compound words: *nu*, *demi*, *feu*, *joint*, *excepte*, *franc*, *plein*, *haut*, *nouveau-ne*, *court-vetu*, *ote*, *passee*, *inclus*, *attendu*, *compris*, etc., no longer conceal a trap. So with *vingt*, *cent*, *mille*; with expresions for shades of color; and with these very misleading litl words: *tout*, *meme*, *aucun*, *chacun*, *ce*, etc. Rules for *plus d'un*, *un peu de*, *c'est*, etc., ar now clear and easy. Ne is necessary no longer after verbs of fearing, douting, denying, prohibiting. Insted of the trublsome imperfect subjunctiv after a conditional frase, the presnt is alowd. Particips (headache causers) now become milder: *yu may rite* "les livres que j'ai lu" and "elles se sont tue," if yu like—evrywhere simplification. Professers and examiners wil hav to re-lern gramar so as not to count as a mistake what is such no more.—Abstract from *Le Petit Journal*.

[TRIAL LINES: "Try all, adopt the good."—PAUL.]  
Tu bi, or not tu bi,—ðat iz ðe kwestion:  
..... Tu dai,—tu slip,—  
Tu slip! perchans tu drim: ai, ðær'z ðe rub;  
For in ðat slip ov deth hwot drimz me cum  
Hwen wi hav shufld of ðis mortal coil.