

agreeing to use them as far as might be practicable. The encouragement accorded to this first list was such that a second list, containing seventy-five amended spellings, with quotations of rules and authorities supporting the usage was issued. Among the words recommended for simpler spelling are ake, agast, alfabet, bedsted, boro, quire, det, eg, instead of ache, aghast, alphabet, bedstead, borough, choir, debt, egg.

Free Text-Books.

The demand for free text-books in the schools of these provinces is daily growing stronger. During the recent election contest in New Brunswick the government party made this a plank in its platform, and it is believed that the legislature of Nova Scotia will look favourably upon the proposal. At a recent meeting of the school board of Yarmouth, says the *Herald*, a resolution was passed asking the government to permit the board to supply free of charge the text-books used by the pupils. A member of the St. John city school board gave notice of a similar resolution a few weeks ago.

There is so much utility and economy in the proposed step that it should not be longer delayed. In several of the United States free text-books have been supplied to schools for many years past, and the results are both economical and satisfactory. A government can make a good bargain with publishers which private individuals have no power to do. A greater saving would result, because the books may be used continuously until worn out, whereas now those which are bought at considerable sacrifice by parents of narrow means remain unused after their children leave school.

The province of Alberta has the honour of being the first province in the dominion to provide free text-books. As yet it supplies only readers, but no doubt other books will soon be added to the list. Other provinces will no doubt soon follow the good example of Alberta.

It is Character that Counts.

Dr. Geo. R. Parkin, the commissioner of the Rhodes scholarship trust, in commenting a few days ago on the qualities that make successful scholars, said: "A scholar should not be judged by his prize-taking qualities. Many who have won the least honours in that way have done the most good. It is a man's high character that counts. The Rhodes trustees always consider that, and do not care so

much about his distinctions. They like earnest workers that mean business."

How often we find that the brilliant student who wins prizes is not heard of after he leaves college. It is the steady plodding worker who gradually forges ahead—the one who wisely divides his time between the study of books, wholesome recreation and exercise, and a healthy social contact with his fellow creatures. This is true not of college students alone, but of boys and girls in our public schools. They should be encouraged to think that all healthy games and exercises are a tonic to the mind as well as to the body, and are as necessary in the formation of character as the studies of the school. Too many teachers think that the play and exercise of their pupils may be safely left to the children themselves; but the wise teacher finds in the social contact with children, and the direction of their sports and games, a great opportunity to mould character and a wholesome preparation for the active duties of life.

Our Picture for March.

If our readers have the pictures framed of the two boys plotting mischief ("Mischief Brewing," *REVIEW*, January, 1907), and the boy who may have thrown the snowball at the elderly gentleman ("Guilty or Not Guilty," *REVIEW*, March, 1907), this picture of the little girl—the demure little girl who never did any mischief—may be placed between them.

It is a reproduction of the painting by Sir Joshua Reynolds of "The Strawberry Girl," a little niece of that famous painter, named Offy, who lived in an English village. Sir Joshua offered to take Offy to London to live with him, as her father had died, leaving her mother very little to live upon. The offer was accepted, and the little country girl left her plain cottage home to live in a fine house in London. This she no doubt enjoyed very much, but not so much as to keep her from being homesick once and a while for her pretty country home and her little schoolmates.

One bright morning early in June she began to think of the nice wild strawberries that she used to gather in her native fields, and she wished to be there, away from the noise and crowds of the Great London. So she dressed herself in a little old dress that she used to wear in the country, put on a cap, hiding her pretty hair, and over her arm carried a long cone-like basket. Then she wandered about her uncle's studio, where he was painting his pictures, and looked into the corners and made believe