

## ART OR SIENCE ?

We find the "Code Ortografique," etc., by Albert Hertel (1867), prefaced by a letter of Girardin which furnishes reply.

Orthograpy is not a sience, says this eminent riter, for "To be esentially progresiv is what distinguishes Sience: it tends constantly to transform obstacks into means of advance, and problems into solutions."

Neither is it an art; since "What characterizes Art is personality, diversity," which is excluded from orthograpy.

Neither an art, nor a sience, it is something irregular, caotic, unsystematic, which consequently shud be reformd and made regular.

Here reformers divide. Shud we make an art of it, that is, leav it chiefly to inspir'n of each, or shud we make a sience of it—make precise and clear the rules on which it rests. Let us refer again to the article cited; it will enlighten us: "Art is what the artist makes it. Sience is independent. If speech were a sience it wud tend to become more and and more simpl, precise, and exact. Rules wud no longer giv way to excep'ns, but excep'ns wud giv way to rules."

Very wel! this is what we ask: that speling, insted of being a ridd, shud become a sience. Who will be on our side? Ar yu for Art, C(h)aos, or Sience?—E. FAIVRE in "Buletin Mansuel."

—In present orthog., irregular as it is, ther ar visibl certn laws which hav contributed to its formation. These laws, not individual judgment, shud be observd, wherever posibl, in making posibl changes. That which is familiar is, ceteris paribus, to be preferd to what is new. Where the comon Roman alfabet laks, we shud borro the required signs from existing caracters in modern alfabets based on the Roman. Invention is permisibl only in case of necessity. The Roman alfabet has become European, indeed universal, and is of the highest importance for sience as wel as comerce. It o't not to be alterd, as, e. g., in Pitman's system, to unrecognizability. It must be made, as far as posibl international, that is it must conform to "Roman values." Such conformity will make it easy for foreners to lern Eng., and wil serv thus in addition to promote its acceptance as the world-language.—FRICKE.

*These pages hav a misionary object. Yur influence to extnd circul'n is solicited.*

—Mr. M. M. Campbell, an octogenarian teacher, nearly blind, living in Boulder Colorado, has publishd three leaflets entitled "Open Letters" which ar worth sending for. They ar suitabl for awakening popular interest in need of an enlarged and improved alfabet. While urging the necessity of such, he does not giv his solution, but appears to favor State aid. He invites criticism. We quote: "The need of a comon language on erth is seen in the groing demands of comerce for a comon system of weights, coins and mesures. Sience and Art seek a comon nomenclature. Diplomacy and travel, telegrafy and mission work wud also be greatly aided by it, as wud evry other interest on erth."

. . . If government wil lead in this beneficent and much-needed reform, as it did a century ago with our confused Colonial curency, adopting for its own use some fixt system and giving to it the weight and authority of its own exampl, as it did in the mater of curency, then publishers and peopl wil unite in its use. And never wil posterity ceas to laud the administration that gave to them the great boon. Then our language (like our curency) wil be not local, variant and sectional, as it now is, but uniform and national and one day it wil become universal."

## KEAP OUBT OVE DET.

A man in debt  
No rest will gebt  
Until he's in the tomb.  
His cares will weigh  
So heavy theigh  
Will shroud his life with glomb.

He 'll practise guile;  
And never smuile;  
His head with pain will ache;  
He 'll grieve and sigh,  
And want to digh,  
And thus his troubles shache.

But owing none  
He 'll have more fone  
Than any king that reigns;  
He 'll feel benign,  
His health is sign,  
And he long life atteigns.

Without a doubt:  
All can keap oubt  
Of debt, if only they  
Will never buy  
To please the cuy  
And cash down always pey.

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