

spelling. Will this double work be easier for our children. Will it be easier for those who are learning English.

Let us suppose that the contemplated uniformity of spelling would one day be an accomplished fact. Would it help? Would it not degrade and impoverish our language? Why, the very irregularities of our language which the self-styled reformers disdain, actually teem, overflow, with such historical associations. They are replete with deep sentiment. They in many cases show the origin and development of our glorious tongue. In these very irregularities lie the genius of the language, are explained its precious idioms. What the foreigner, the student prizes most in our language are those irregularities. Destroy them and you destroy the greater part of its merit and attractiveness. No, Mr. Chairman, the Reformers are attempting the impossible. A living tongue shows itself in its growth. In aiming at change of spelling, the followers of President Roosevelt attack, and would destroy, our language in its natural growth, but it is evident they cannot succeed.

It is, besides, an utter impossibility to bring about a genuine phonetic spelling of English. The number of letters in the alphabet are insufficient to represent the sounds used in our speech. The long and short vowels are inadequate for the purpose and here is an insuperable stumbling block in phonetics.

Let the promoters of this movement say that our spelling is archaic and perplexing and consequently difficult of acquisition. Even so, will the changes contemplated do away with the oddness, complexities. Not at all. Nor is our present system of spelling so difficult to acquire as those who are in a position to know acknowledge. In education our children are not behind those of Germany. Prof. Munsternberg, who has gained a deep insight in to the German and English languages, affirms that education is retarded not by the spelling but by inaccuracy and superficiality. The Professor further states that the foreigner far from being assisted, will rather be hindered in the learning of English by the proposed reform in spelling. Another disadvantage to be feared from that reform is the encouragement it gives to slovenly and incorrect spelling.

The reformers profess to be seeking uniformity. I ask you if there is anything more uniform than our spelling. Wherever you go