

day before yesterday, and it will not be the spelling of to-morrow. Many of the more cumbersome forms of the Johnsonian canon—*governour*, for example, and *teaggon* and *gaol*—have long been abandoned here in the United States. Many more are likely to be given up in the immediate future. Already is *rime* making its way back into use, and probably *sovran* would seem strange now to no student of Milton. No lover of Tennyson finds anything unusual in *stept* and *stopt*, which the laureate liked better than *stepped* and *stopped*, perhaps as more frankly monosyllabic and therefore more harmoniously fitted into his verse; and perhaps because he followed the practise of the older poets of our tongue.

"It was the shrewd Bismarck who declared that 'we cannot hasten the course of time by setting our watches forward.' But the course of time is even steadier in its advance than the most trustworthy of our watches. Even in the nineteenth century there was some progress toward simplicity in our spelling, and now at the beginning of the twentieth century the time seems ripe for another step or two. The Simplified Spelling Board is profoundly convinced that the peoples who speak English are very conservative and very slow to move along the path of reformation, and therefore it is going to refrain from all radical suggestions. Its members agree with M. Brunetière

that 'we can do what we desire only on condition that we do not desire what is not in power.'"

**Fate of the President's Order.** Though President's order of August, 1906, went into operation at once in the Public Printing Office, the spellings in executive documents, the judicial branch of the government refused to accept the proposed new spellings in their papers and decisions, and insisted on a continuance of the old forms. When the Fifty-ninth Congress met in its second session, December 3d, 1906, it was found in opposition to the improved spellings, and the House passed a unanimous resolution to the effect that the Public Printer should, in the printing of all reports, documents and publications ordered by Congress, use the orthography found in accepted dictionaries; but this resolution was recalled when the President, finding that his order was not generally acceptable either the judicial or legislative departments of government, revoked it, as he had before intimated he would do in case it proved impracticable in its workings. It was made clear to him that the two forms of spelling in the same printing office resulted in confusion and expense, and he, however, continued the reform spelling in all White House correspondence, except where the same was to pass through the Public Printing Department.