

advocating a return to the Roman notation in mathematics. "Add DCCXIX to MDLXVI, multiply by CCLXXXV, and divide by MDCV" is a simple problem, but not in its present form. Nevertheless we stupidly insist that no change shall be made in as clumsy a system of *ortho*-graphy, in accordance with the principles of which the letters "ghoughphtheightteaux" spell the word "potatoes," as witness the common spellings, "hiccough," "though," "phthisic," "eight," "batteaux." Well did Lord Lytton call it "a puzzle-headed delusion," yet we make it an idol too sacred to be touched, while looking with pity upon those who worship stocks and stones. We resemble the Flat-head Indians, who deformed their children's foreheads by pressing a board upon the plastic bones.

Some seem to fear that the continuity of our language will be broken, and that "all the books written during the last three hundred years will become as unreadable to the next generation as if written in Anglo-Saxon." Prof. Sayce contends that "the continuity of a language is in its sounds." It is the sound, and not the spelling, which is the principal thing, as all our metrical literature bears witness. With a phonetic spelling the laws of change can be more easily traced, and the dialects of a language can be more surely studied. A phonetic spelling would have a strong tendency to conserve the language. Nothing else can arrest the rapid changes now going on. Tennyson has had his dialectic poems printed in phonetics by that "prince of phonologists," Mr. A. J. Ellis, in order that the future generations may know how he pronounced his words. He is an ardent supporter of this reform, because he knows that without it in a few generations the music of many of his lines will be lost to his readers by the changes in pronunciation, which must inevitably occur. There is no reason why, with the almost omnipresent newspaper, our language should not be preserved as was the tongue of Thucydides and Sophocles, so that Lucian in the second century A.D. could write and speak as did the Greeks of seven hundred years before. Since before the days of Chaucer, the Italian literary language has survived unchanged. An Italian