

not by Pres. Roosevelt, but by the ancient scholars of Europe, when they chose the Roman in preference to the Greek alphabet.

The first step towards simplified spelling was not taken by Pres. Roosevelt and neither was the second. In 1882, the London Philological Society published a set of rules for spelling phonetically, and a list of several thousand words requiring reform. The Society included among its members, the scientist Charles Darwin, the poet Alfred Tennyson, the philosopher Herbert Spencer and the statesman Mr. W. E. Gladstone. Surely, Hon. Judges, the opinions of such great men should have some weight in the matter of spelling reform. In 1883 The American Philological Society followed the same line of action.

Now, Mr. Chairman, my worthy opponents claim that simplified spelling as advocated by President Roosevelt is detrimental to the English language. Why there could be nothing of greater benefit to the English language. The Anglo-Saxon race is the dominant race of to-day. "Dominant race—Dominant language." The English language with a phonetic system of spelling, would soon become the dominant language of the world, because it would be so much the easier for foreigners to learn it. Englishmen would then know and take more interest in their mother tongue, and above all it would simplify it for the workingman.

The last speaker says that the simplified system of spelling, as advocated by President Roosevelt would cut us off from the history of language. Well Mr. Chairman, that assertion is false. The history of our language, is written in millions of volumes, stored away in thousands of libraries, and it can never be lost, as long as there are students and scholars in the world. Besides how many people, ever have any need to delve into the history of words. A few thousand learned professors, scattered throughout the English speaking world, and my worthy opponents wish to burden a few million humans, with an absurd system of spelling for the sake of a few thousand.