

may be described as the down-hill method, the up-hill method being the very common one of going back chronologically through the various stages and learning what is virtually a new language in each. Fortunately there are now ample materials for the study of Old English in the series of "Specimens," edited by Mr. Sweet, Mr. Skeat, and Mr. Morris, and published in excellent form by the Clarendon Press. Mr. Sweet's Anglo-Saxon Reader is self-contained, being furnished with grammatical introduction and glossary, and so is each of the other three volumes. The second and third, edited by Morris and Skeat jointly, are entitled "Specimens of Early English." The fourth, edited by Mr. Skeat alone, is called "Specimens of English Literature." It takes in part of Spenser's "Shepheardes Calender," and thus brings the series down to within a decade of the beginning of Shakespeare's dramatic career. A considerable portion of the specimens in each of these volumes should be read by the student of Old English during his university course, and if he desires to carry his studies further, he will then be in a position to do so with pleasure and profit to himself.

WM. HOUSTON.

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"WHY is a young man like a kernel of corn?" asked a young lady. "Because," said another, "he turns white when he pops."

I HOLD that a man has just as much right to spell a word as it is pronounced as he has to pronounce it in the way it ain't spelt.—*Josh Billings*.

MUST LATIN GO?—When a bill concerning the great seal of the Commonwealth was before the Massachusetts Senate, a member moved to strike out the words, "Sigillum Reipublicæ Massachusettensis," and insert "The Seal of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts." He said he thought this change would commend itself to the Senate, and he was sure it would to the people of the Commonwealth. The matter was postponed until the next session.