

—All the *public* can be got to swalo is a small dose of patching up of the old speling; but, for scientifiic and educational purposes, we must hav ful fonetic speling—with digrafts, diacritics or new letters, acording to circumstances.—Paris *F. Teacher*.

STANDARD SPEECH.—Standard English I take to be a mean between pronunciation of elocutionists and that of slip-shod conversation. To decide at what point freedom ceases to be alowabl and becomes slip-shod is so personal a mater that it wud lead to endles recrimination. . . . Ordinary reading pronunciation is tolerably certn, and I therefore propose that we take it for the basis of our fonetic transcription. It divides us les than any attempt to give a standard based on colloquialisms; moreover, it avoids for lerners the risk of acquiring a provincial or inelegant pronunciation.—W. MAXTON, in Paris *F. Teacher*.

EFFECT ON EXISTING LITERATURE.—Other persons asert that by changing speling our national literature wud be spoilt, and ascia'ns with past destroyd. Yet our bible and prayer-book, Shakspere and Milton, ar now spelt very diferently to what they originally wer, and ar none the worse. Another clas of objections is that our libraris will be renderd useles, our hole typografic arrangements upset, and that all our educational appliances wud hav to be remodeld. These objections cud only hav force wer change of speling efected by some sudn revolution compulsorily enforst, a procedure which, as far as I am aware, no speling reformer has ever advocated. It is quite certn that, in whatever shape a new mode of speling may come, its introduction will be slo and gradual. It wil resembl the transition from manuscripts to printed books, from blak-leter to comon types, or from ancient Roman numerals to the present notation [of numbers.] All these hav taken place without any catastrophe. As, however, no important changes can be efected without inconvenient results in some quarters, it shud be a serius consideration how to secure maximum of advantage with minimum of inconvenience.—Dr. J. H. GLADSTONE in *Sp. Reform from an Educational Point of View*.

#### BRITISH DIALECTS.

(Scene—A rural hostelry. Enter two swells. Waiter shows them into parlor and awaits order.)

*First swell*: Waitah! Two gwass b'aw. You take b'aw, Chaws?

*Second swell*: Yaw.

*F. S.*: Haw! Waitah, two gwass b'aw.

*Waiter* (looking puzzled): I beg y'r pawrdon. Whit wis it ye ordered?

*F. S.*: B'aw.

*S. S.*: Yaw.

*F. S.*: Haw!—jaws, b'aw.

*W.* (astonisht): I'm sorry, gentlemen, but I'm kin' o' deaf the day. Wid ye obleege me by speakin' oot a bit?

*F. S.* (shouting): Two—gwass—b'aw.

*S. S.* (shouting): Yaw.

*W.* (dumbfounded): I'm sorry, gentlemen, but we're oot o'—quite oot o'—o' b'aw the noo. Wid ye tak' onything else?

*F. S.*: B'aw? Out of b'aw! Strange haws! Waitah! bwing us pawtah. You take pawtah, Chaws?

*S. S.*: Yah.

*F. S.*: Haw! Waitah, two bawtals pawtah

*W.* (flabbergasted): Looder, if ye please, sir, looder!

*Both swells* (shouting): Pawtah! pawtah!

*W.* (shaking his head dolefully): Sorry, gentlemen, we're oot o' pawtah the noo. Onything else ye wid like?

*F. S.*: Pawtah? Out of pawtah! Stwange haws! Hey, Chaws?

*S. S.*: Yaw, yaw.

*F. S.*: Waitah! bwing us pawt. You take pawt, Chaws?

*S. S.*: Yaw.

*F. S.*: Haw! A bawtah pawt, waitah.

*W.* (scratching his head): There's no a drap in the hoose, sir.

*Both swells*: No pawt! No pawt! Stwange haws! No pawt!

*W.*: Not a drap, gentlemen.

*F. S.*: No pawt! Well, bring us—aw—anything, haw! You take—aw—anything Chaws?

*S. S.*: Yaw.

*F. S.*: Haw! Waitah, bwing us—aw—anything—haw!

*W.* (recovering his senses): Very guid, sir. [Exit.]

*F. S.*: No b'aw no pawtah, no pawt. Stwange haws! Hay Chaws?

*S. S.*: Yaw.

*F. S.*: Haw!

(Re-enter waiter, bearing tray with bottles of beer, stout, porter, sherry, port, etc., sets it down before swells.)

*W.*: Noo, tak' yer pick, gentlemen.

*Both swells* (staring at tray): Great heavens!

(Both faint sitting. Waiter holds up his hands in astonishment. Slow music from barrel-organ outside. Tableaux.)

[The above is clipt from newspaper. We hav givn the piece just as found—imperfectly, becaus usin, only old-leter forms. A great use to which an establisht enlarged alfabet will be put is to properly indicate dialect, now imperfectly givn with no small cost of ingenuity and labor in pages of such novelists as Bennet and Cable, or in poetry by Mair and Curzon. The extract givs London dialect with *rs* dropt, not *hs*: the waiter is Scotch.—ED.]