

1. The true and sole office of alphabetic writing is faithfully and intelligently to represent spoken speech. So-called "historical" orthography is only a concession to the weakness of prejudices.

2. The ideal of an alphabet is that every sound should have its own unvarying sign, and every sign its own unvarying sound.

3. An alphabet intended for use by a vast community need not attempt an exhaustive analysis of the elements of utterance, and a representation of the nicest varieties of articulation; it may well leave room for the unavoidable play of individual and local pronunciation.

4. An ideal alphabet would seek to adopt for its characters forms which should suggest the sounds signified, and of which the resemblances should in some measure represent the similarities of the sounds. But for general practical use, there is no advantage in a system which aims to depict in detail the physical processes of utterance.

5. No language has ever had or is likely to have a perfect alphabet; and in changing and amending the mode of writing of a language already long written, regard must necessarily be had to what is practically possible quite as much as to what is inherently desirable.

6. To prepare the way for such a change the first step is to break down, by the combined influence of enlightened scholars and of practical educators, the immense and stubborn prejudice which regards the established modes of spelling almost as constituting the language, as having a sacred character, and as in themselves preferable to others. All agitation and all definite proposals of reform are to be welcomed so far as they work in this direction.

7. An altered orthography will be unavoidably offensive to those who are first called upon to use it; but any sensible and consistent new system will rapidly win the hearty preference of the mass of writers.

8. The Roman alphabet is so widely and firmly established in use among the leading civilized nations that it cannot be displaced; in adapting it to improved use for English, the efforts of scholars should be directed toward its use with uniformity and in conformity with other nations.

The new act proposed by the U.S. House Committee on Commerce at length places the whole subject of emigration and the rules and regulations regarding emigrants under the control of the Federal Government, where it properly belongs. The head-money, or the sum of \$2 per passenger, is retained, and will form a fund, varying from \$300,000 to \$600,000 per annum, from which the Secretary of the Treasury will reimburse the different States for their expenses in the care of newly-arrived emigrants. Strict provisions are also included to prevent the sending to this country of convicts, criminals, paupers, or insane from foreign States. There are other provisions of the act not necessary here to detail. We suppose that henceforth the business, which has been transacted at Castle Garden, of forwarding emigrants will, if this act be passed, be transferred to the Custom-house authorities and the expenses be met from the appropriations to this department. United States officials will have sole charge of foreign passengers arriving at the ports of this country.

The British public are interesting themselves in the present Sioux war. In the House of Commons, Sir EDWARD WILLIAM WATKIN asked Mr. JAMES LOWTHER, one of the Under Secretaries for the Colonial Department, if he could give any information regarding the conflict between the United States troops and the Sioux Indians, many of which are British subjects and whether the origin of the conflict was not a breach of the treaty regarding the Indian reservation and subsidies, which may provoke widespread antagonism between the Indians and whites in both American and British territory. He ask-

ed whether the Government proposed to tender its good offices in the interest of the Indian subjects of Great Britain and of humanity. Mr. LOWTHER replied that so far no information had been received regarding the conflict, and he could not express an opinion as to its origin and probable consequences. He had no information tending to show that any British subjects are connected with these events. As at present advised, the Government has no intention to interfere.

English papers infer from Earl DERRY'S language, when asking Lord GRANVILLE to postpone his extradition motion in the House of Lords, that there is prospect of negotiations for the renewal of the treaty on a more satisfactory basis. Minister PIERREPOIX must either have made some distinct proposal, or have stated his belief that he would soon receive instructions to do so. It is probable that the turn matters have taken may provoke discussion during the present session.

The French Senate has rejected, by a vote of 144 to 139, the Government bill restoring to the State the sole right of conferring University degrees. During the debate M. DUFAYRE urged the adoption of the bill, which would strengthen the Ministry in defending the interests of the Church in the Chamber of Deputies. The rejection was effected by an alliance of the Bonapartists with the Right, and has produced a sensation.

Rumors are afloat that serious irregularities have been discovered in the management of the affairs of the Northern Railway. Information is reported to have been communicated of so full and precise a character as to render action necessary on the part of Government, and the advisability of issuing a commission of enquiry is understood to be now under consideration.

A young Quebecer, son of a highly-esteemed doctor, has made a successful operation to the tune of some \$20,000 by the sale of a portion of his rights in a new patent fog whistle, which will shortly astonish the navigating world. The new invention is so constructed that it can be put in immediate use on board sailing vessels.

MISBEHAVIOUR AT PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENTS.

Although I have been a resident for some years of Montreal, as of other parts of Canada, and thought I had fully studied its inhabitants of every grade, I own that I am at a loss to fully understand the behaviour of the higher and middle classes; particularly those of Montreal itself at public resorts whether they may be religious or secular. Visiting the Victoria rink the other evening to view the reception of the Lacrosse Teams on their arrival from Europe, I was more bewildered than ever, and now as a favour would request enlightenment on the subject, if it lies within the power of a member of either the above classes to elucidate it, or kindly to inform me whether any of the following constructions, the only ones that could occur, I think, to any stranger, are correct.

The behaviour I allude to is a total disregard of the purpose for which they are called together. It may be in a church consecrated to the God of the Universe worthy of the highest reverence that mortal can offer; it may be in the temple of the muses where some of His highest attributes are attempted to be imparted to them, by being constricted with those of evil which retribution always must follow; or the Concert Hall where Harmony, another attribute of the Deity is attempted to be taught them in contradistinction to their discord; in the lecture room of Science; or even in what should have been a truly courteous occasion of welcome to those whom Our Queen delighted to honour. It appeared as if insult could not be laid too heavily on the recipients, the committee, the lady who has by her artistic culture and sweet tones held for months the city (which I have often heard by the parties, I speak of, called the seat of rowdiness on this continent) in silent entrancement, and those members of the audience who went to enjoy the words and sounds of welcome, and not to mar every sense of decency and decorum by their loud tramping, loud talking, and most rude unceremonious ingratiation of the purpose of the meeting, an entertainment which from the fact of even its being a complimentary one, should have ensured at least their grateful respect.

The worthy Mayor commenced his remarks that evening with saying (and shame to Montreal citizens that their First Magistrate

should have been driven by despair at the unnatural noise to do so) that were he the trombone he might hope to be heard. All those who were trying so hard to conduce to the pleasure of that audience, might also have truly wished that they might flee away and be at rest, for if some or all of them were confined to their houses next day through the fatigue they were cruelly forced to endure, it is a mercy due to their good constitutions, and not from any efforts made by their audience to meet them half way in enduring the heat and lassitude incidental to the duties they had to perform. If the people of Montreal are naturally restless, this disposition was provided for by opportunities for promenading, hearing their own harmony &c., during the selections of the Band, but why they should rule the rink that evening altogether to the exclusion of those who came to amuse and be amused in the manner legitimately advertised is hard to say; preventing a single word of the addresses, remarks or scarcely even a line of a song from being heard, or the purport even guessed, until perhaps next day's papers might repeat them for the benefit of the public. Talk of the Savage Iroquois so-called, they were the civilized gentlemen of that evening; but even the warlike voice of the "Big Chief" would have required the whoop added and after that the *trombone* to reach the ears of his so-called civilized auditory. A LADY.

HASSAN BEY, THE ASSASSIN.

The Ministers had met in Council at the house of Midhat Pasha on Thursday evening, 15th June. About eleven p.m., Hassan Bey presented himself in the ante-chamber of the Council-room, and informed the official in attendance that he had important business to communicate to the Seraskier—Minister of War. The officer told him he had strict orders not to admit any one, and that his business must wait, upon which the two getting into a friendly chat sat down to a game of backgammon. Intent on the execution of his sinister purpose, Hassan Bey availed himself of the opportunity when his companion had been called out of the room to lift the *partee* of the Council-room, and making straight at Hussein Avni, pointed a revolver at his breast, exclaiming "Seraskier, do not move," and fired, wounding him in the left breast. Hussein Avni made a rush at his assassin, but fell insensible to the ground. Achmet Kaiserli then came to the rescue of his colleague, and clasped Hassan Bey in his grasp, but he, quickly disentangling his right arm, dealt the portly old Achmet several severe cuts with his kummar—a Circassian poignard—cutting off one of his ears. Stunned with the blow, Achmet Kaiserli let go his hold, and Hassan Bey, returning to Hussein Avni, prostrate on the ground, despatched him with repeated blows of his kummar. Meanwhile the rest of the Ministers had fled terror-stricken into an adjoining room, Raschid Pasha excepted, who, apparently paralysed with terror, had been unable to move; and, when Hassan Bey had vented his utmost fury on the lifeless body of Hussein Avni, Raschid still sat rooted in his chair. The assassin did not hesitate a moment. A few minutes more, and the unfortunate Minister of Foreign Affairs had ceased to live. A bullet through his head and a gash in his throat killed him outright on the spot. The sight of so much bloodshed only seemed to excite the assassin's thirst for more. His attention was next directed to the door of the room in which the surviving Ministers had concealed themselves. It was held closed against him by the united efforts of the men inside; but, being a powerful man, he succeeded in opening it sufficiently to introduce his hand, in which he held a revolver. He fired repeatedly into the room at random, fortunately without hitting any one. The guard came at last to extricate their Excellencies from their perilous situation. Hassan Bey, however, had still a couple of loaded revolvers about him and his kummar, and, nothing daunted by the bayonets directed against him, he made a desperate resistance, during which three more lives were sacrificed to his murderous fury, one of them being an aide-de-camp of one of the Ministers. At length, battered and bruised, he fell in his turn, and the soldiers would have despatched him at once; but Midhat Pasha's orders were that he should be carried away alive. It is said he had provided himself with six loaded revolvers, and that sixty cartridges were found on his person. The next day he was tried by court-martial and sentenced to death. He was executed early on Saturday, 17th June.

AROUND THE WORLD.

People are so much interested at this moment with voyages around the world that a society, directed by some very distinguished Frenchmen, and under the patronage of learned persons, has been organized for the purpose of giving practical instruction to wealthy young men. It is not our purpose to sound the praises of the excellent idea, which will meet with such unanimous sympathy, and whose execution will most assuredly render great service. The map of the course of the first voyage, which will take place next year, according to the present aspect of affairs, will show our readers that this is a voyage in real earnest, and not one of those excursions of fancy, such as the humorous and versatile pen of Jules Verne knows so well how to charm by its interest. A talented artist, M. Henry Luber, an old officer in the navy of France, has favored us with a drawing of the vessel for the voyages of study around the

world, which he has carefully executed from plans of the ship. We publish to-day the reproduction of this drawing. We should also like to give a full description of the conveniences of this most magnificent vessel, where everything will combine to render travel agreeable and study easy. We will not end this short notice without mention of the intelligent originators of this project, who are such men as MM. F. De Lesseps, E. Levassour, Ed. André, Hipp, Passy, Bischoffsheim, and Levalley. These men intend to endow France with a useful institution, a work of progress and reality, and one to which each year will add new element of prosperity.

THE CHILDREN'S SWING.

A more graceful combination of healthy sport with picturesque surroundings can hardly be found than the arrangement of this as commonly seen in the country, fastened to the large arm of a tree, or slung between two neighboring trunks, so that, as the young folks fly to and fro beneath the branches, they may enjoy the shimmering sunshine through the sheltering leaves, or the cool shadow from oppressive heat. With proper attention to requisite strength in the supporting bough and durability of the fastenings, it may be considered perfect.

Another arrangement which is not amiss where the large size of branch requisite for safe hanging is not procurable may be easily contrived by placing a stout beam across in the forked boughs of two trees, from which the swing may be hung, or by setting up two small trees—which can be bought as timber—cut back to forks at the requisite height, and laying a beam resting in these supports across at the top. This frame, with a few large stones at the foot, which may serve also as seats, and a few bushes close by, and perhaps a honeysuckle, or strong climber of no special rarity trained up the woodwork—choosing something that would do no mischief by its prickly shoots, and will not get the young folks into trouble if they injure it—would look pretty, as well as serve its purpose thoroughly.

There is yet one form more, however, sometimes in favor in knots of villa residences, which, though convenient, may surely without offence be said, picturesquely considered, to be truly frightful, resembling nothing in the world but a gigantic gallows, formed of square beams, sometimes painted blue, and sometimes in its more ornamental varieties "paré gilt." To simple flower and plant loving eyes there is no hope for this ornate form save in the quickest growth of ivy that can be compassed. The simple massive frame, however, has the recommendation of great convenience, and if a few bushes were so placed as to blend its towering isolated height gradually with the surroundings, and if some climbers were added—especially if the top of the beam were lengthened a little so as to let the ivy, or whatever it might be, hang down in festoons—the effect would not be ungraceful.

In itself the children's swing may seem of no great importance, but some consideration is due to it as a part of the garden grouping, and something more as to its mental effects on those most concerned. The young heads that fly to and fro are storing memories of the sunshine through the leaves, the shapes of the boughs, every change in the distant landscape, and every striking grouping near, and what is to them the happiest bit of their garden life, will leave its associations firmly fixed to come out again by and by in results of some kind. If these prove to be an appreciation and love of natural beauty, the swing will have worked well.

PERSONAL.

MR. BLAKE is expected home next month. Hon. Adam Crooks has left for a trip to Europe. Mr. J. H. Fraser, connected with the Centennial, has resigned his position. Hon. John Young is about to publish a pamphlet entitled "History of Victoria Bridge." Mr. I. B. Taylor, at one time owner of the Ottawa Citizen, has bought the Times of the place named. Mr. John McKay, Registrar of Elgin, and one of the oldest and most respectable citizens of St. Thomas, died on his way to the seaside last week.

HUMOROUS.

A YOUNG lady, who dreamed she was in heaven, says she saw no Boston folks there. They were all scattered around in little groups outside the gate discussing metaphysics and Ralph Waldo Emerson. THE recklessness with which some people go in for green apples and debilitated vegetables shows that they have a remarkable confidence in their future state. DID you ever have a ten-pound stone in the heel of your stocking? If you have you can imagine something of the enjoyment of getting a raspberry seed wedged underneath the plate of your false teeth.

HYGIENIC.

A NOVEL suspended railway car for sick and wounded has been successfully tried by the Great Eastern Railway of France. This will prove a boon as hardly any movement is felt by the patient, even when trains are stopped with extreme suddenness. A correspondent of *L'Union Médicale* calls attention to the fact that palpitations, when not depending upon organic disease, may be almost immediately arrested by bending the head downward and allowing the arms to hang pendent. The effect is even still more rapidly produced by holding the breath for a few seconds while the body is in this bent position.