

by experiment. Even if the most of them did attempt to solve that problem by experiment alone, they would be only rendering themselves incapable of fairly investigating any other system than the one first tried. It will not do to start one system in one province, another in another province, and so on. That means civil war in stenography, with all the loss to the general public which the struggle for the survival of the fittest involves. Evolution in the future is going to do business on improved principles as compared with the past. It will prevent, under the reign of science, the reproduction of the unfit, and so save all the loss of energy involved first in the rearing of the unfit, and secondly, in the destruction of the unfit. So that under the guidance of the higher reason of man, evolutionary change may be hurried on with tenfold the old rapidity, and with an hundredfold less cost to existing organisms. If these abbreviated phonetic characters could also with but little deviation from the written forms, be capable of being set up in ordinary type for the printer, the discovery would be a far greater one for literature and society, than the fabled feat of the Theban Cadmus.

This then brings me to the summation of all I have particularly^a to say. To enable our educational system to advance rapidly, and at the same time with the minimum disturbance of, or cost to, present society, we must organize, and from the history of the past lay down lines which will produce the conditions we seek without antagonizing unnecessarily any element of our present constitution. This can be done. Should any one doubt it, even he need not say that we should not take the possibility of improvement into consideration.

I then simply propose at present, that we should appoint a Standing Committee of this Association, to confer with similar Committees from co-ordinate bodies of educators in all other English speaking countries, and at least these three subjects be relegated to them to commence with: 1. The universal use of the decimal weights and measures; 2. The simplification of English orthography; and 3. The general introduction of a distinctly legible phonetic short hand.

[This presentation of the subject was made as specified about five years ago, since which time very considerable advance has been made in each of the reforms advocated. For evidence of this see reports of committees of the Imperial Parliament and English trade congresses, of the United States Congress and National Manufacturers' Association, &c. See also the new "Standard English Dictionary published by Funk & Wagnalls, (New York, London and Toronto), the latest editions of the "International" (Webster) English Dictionary, the action of the National Educational Association of the United States and some of its more progressive educationists; and the rapid growth of "shorthand" writing.]

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