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Science in 1906.

A phenomenal tide of prosperity has attended the progress of science during the year 1906, according to the *Scientific American*. The pursuits of farming and mining were never more profitable while the remarkable activity in manufacturing is made evident by the fact that the great steel plants of Pittsburg and elsewhere are barely able to supply the demand.

Civil engineering has gained some significant triumphs. It has solved the water supply problem for New York city; it has successfully entered upon the vast schemes for reclaiming the arid lands of the West. Even across the border, in the Province of Alberta, Canada, the Canadian Pacific Railway has completed another huge irrigation project, by which a valley 150 miles in length by 40 miles in width is being brought under cultivation. This block of irrigated lands alone is estimated to have room for half a million people. Tunnelling is also a branch of practical science in which engineering has met with marked success. No less than twelve separate tunnel tubes are being driven beneath the Hudson and East rivers. Their importance in obtaining quick passage for city travelers is seen by the fact that in a single day 600,000 passengers were carried on twenty miles of rapid transit subway in New York. "The English

Channel tunnel will probably be made the subject of favorable legislation by the British government during the present year." Treating of bridge-building, reference is made to the bridge over the St. Lawrence at Quebec. "It will contain the largest single span ever erected, the main span over the river measuring 1,800 feet between the towers. . . . The floor system will accommodate two steam railway tracks, two electric car tracks, two highways for vehicles and two sidewalks." In house-building, armored concrete, i.e. a judicious distribution of steel rods with gravel and cement, because of greater tensional strength, appears designed to replace the massive steel column and plate girder. The Panama Canal project is mentioned as having passed the stage of preparation, and the actual work of digging will now begin.

Nothing could better illustrate the attention given to naval affairs than the fact that the war vessels assembled to be reviewed at Oyster Bay equalled in powers of attack and defence "the combined Russian and Japanese fleets that were engaged in the battle of the Sea of Japan." The British "Dreadnought" is given as the type of the future battleship, armed with 12-inch guns, driven by turbine engines, and developing a speed of 21 knots.

Wireless telegraphy has proved a failure so far as transoceanic work is concerned and the submarine cable still holds it own. "The lack of selectivity has brought about a state of affairs that borders on chaos, for only one or two stations in the active zone of radiation—and this often means a radius of a thousand miles—can send at the same time."

Regarding railroads, the *Scientific American* says that the steam locomotive for long distance service "still remains the most economical and convenient means of traction, and particularly for the working of heavy freight traffic." But for passenger service, for long distance, the electric car may yet replace the steam locomotive and succeed "in breaking up into smaller units the long ten and twelve-car trains of our present railway service."

For those who use electric illumination, it may be interesting to know that "if the promises which are held out by the inventors of metallic filament lamps are fulfilled we may soon witness the passing of the carbon filament bulb." It is claimed that thereby electric

lighting will be made much cheaper. Unfortunately "at present the metallic filament lamp is in its experimental stage."

A discussion on aeronautics—which problem appears solved by the successful aeroplane of the Wight brothers—of automobiles and motor boats and of merchant marine, closes this very interesting review of the achievements of science in 1906.

The Key to English Post-Reformation Literature.



THE statement, in a previous article, concerning the debt which English literature owes to the English Bible, may have seemed to those whose privilege it is that they were born of Catholic parents, so strange as to be almost paradoxical. It may be well, therefore, to recur to the subject, and to see whether the statement may not, after all, be in some measure borne out by the facts of the case.

The life-Catholic should, in the first place, remember that pious Protestants have, for three centuries, been as intimately familiar with the English Bible as the priest is with his Breviary. A better comparison, however, presents itself in these terms, namely, that the English Bible has been, to devout English-speaking Protestants, what the Vulgate was to the Fathers, Doctors, and theologians of the Early, and of the Mediæval Church. Just as, therefore, a familiar acquaintance with the phraseology of the Vulgate is indispensable to a right understanding of all Christian Latin literature, so a familiar acquaintance with the phraseology of the English Bible is equally indispensable to the realization of its influence on English Post-reformation literature. Each has, so to say, created an atmosphere, the full effects of which are only to be measured by those who have known and felt them.

The English Bible, then, is, in a very real sense, the mould of English Literature. Englishmen are, above all men, governed by tradition and by precedent, and, though Shakespeare stands, apparently outside the sphere of the English Bible, he is a child of the Golden Age in which it appeared, of which it is the crowning

literary glory. Milton, however, stands immediately within the circle of its influence, and is one of the chief precedents, so to speak, of English literary tradition.

The Anglican Churchman, indeed, has this further advantage over his Nonconformist fellow Protestant, that he has also been taught to pray liturgically. It is an advantage, moreover, which he possesses over the ordinary Catholic, who, practically ignorant of the Church's treasures of devotion, fails, wholly, to realize the effects of life-long familiarity with a liturgical office compiled in a language as stately, as musical, and of as true a literary beauty, as is that of the Breviary, itself; possibly, even more so, in the last respect, at all events, seeing that the author of the Breviary were not concerned with literary beauty; lived indeed, most of them, in the worst ages of Latin Literature, rather than in the Golden Age of English Literature. A comparison of a Vesper psalm, or of the Sunday collect, with the Prayer Book version, will, I think, fully bear out what has been here said.

The consideration of the influence of the Vulgate on Mediaeval, and of the English Bible on English literature, leads, naturally, as it would seem, to a further consideration, that, namely, of the place of each in the pulpit. The Catholic priest, familiar with the Vulgate, quotes infrequently, and is, probably, conscious that the quotation wakens but a faint spiritual echo in the great majority of his hearers; that he is speaking a language which they do not understand. The Protestant preacher quotes freely and frequently, conscious that every quotation tells, as we say; that many, if not most of his hearers are as fully at home in the language of the Bible as he is himself.

To refer to this latter practice as Protestant, is to show a strange want of familiarity with older Catholic custom. The priest who reads his "Homilia in Evangelium" knows that St. Gregory, St. Leo, St. Augustine, quote, and allude to Scripture as frequently and as freely as any revivalist of the twentieth century; quote and allude as those who know that their hearers are equally familiar with Holy Writ. The same holds true of the great Mediaeval preachers, as the Protestant scholar, Dr. Maitland, has shown in his "Dark Ages"; a fact not to be wondered at in times when kings wrote sequences for the use of Holy Church, and the Sundays were known by the first words of the Introit at Mass. Of this last custom, indeed, we still

have some traces in such titles as "Quasimodo" and "Laetare" Sunday. They are traces of a pre-reformation liturgical "use" which ranked the "Dies Dominica" as a "duplex majus", a use still maintained by the English Congregation of our Holy Order. A "use" which, moreover, asserts itself in the phrase: "The Gospel read in the Mass to-day"—which it is not, when a modern Saints Feast displaces "the Weekly Festival of the Resurrection."

To revert, however, to the purely literary aspect of the question, after which it may, possibly, be permitted, even to a layman, to say something more as to sermons, and the spiritual uses of Scripture. The English Bible, as has been well said, holds much the same place in English literature, as Homer's poems held in that of Greece, and the man who is unfamiliar with the English Bible is as truly "out of touch" with the spirit of English literature as the man who is ignorant of Homer is "out of touch" with the spirit of Greek literature. In this respect, the Vulgate stands, at best, on the same footing as Pope's Homer does to the original; the Douay version in an even less favourable position. And, in any case, the Douay version is a sealed book to the vast majority of Catholics.

It will be said, indeed, that a knowledge of Scripture is not "necessary" to a Catholic, and that, consequently, there is no "need" of frequent quotations from Scripture in modern Catholic sermons. Yet, if the layman were invited—as he never will be—to "address the brethren," to speak to a gathering of the clergy, he would urge, once more, the use of the "Homilia in Evangelium" as, in some sort, a model to be followed; urge, chiefly, the example of all the Church's great preachers, from Pentecost to the Reformation.

To the assertion that "a Catholic has no need of Scripture," we would urge that, if true, in a sense, it is not wholly true, since the Church, of set purpose, makes Scripture the chief spiritual food—next to the Sacraments—of those specially devoted to Her service. Not wholly true, since of the Saints, from the dawn of time, it may be said, in respect of Holy Writ, "tota die meditatio mea est." Not wholly true, since, though not indispensable, not necessary to salvation, to neglect the Scriptures is to neglect the means of grace second, only, to the Sacraments; is to lay aside a weapon of our ghostly warfare which St. Paul, advisedly, calls "the sword of the Spirit."

It is chiefly, however, the literary aspect of the matter which concerns us in these "Notes and Comments"; the spiritual and theological aspects may safely be left to those to whose province they belong. The point mainly to be insisted on is that a knowledge of the English Bible is the true key to all that is best in English literature, that it should be studied, at least, as a matter of literary training. A mere enumeration of names amounts to very little, at best, yet the great names of English literature, Milton, Bacon, Addison, Johnson, Scott, and Newman, are the names of those to whom the English Bible was familiar from the dawn of consciousness to the last hour of life. It coloured all their thoughts, dominated all their ideas, and was to them—as, indeed, it is—"the well of English undefiled." Is it too much to hope that Newman's dream may, at no distant date, be realized, and English-speaking Catholics possess a version of God's word, free indeed, from error, yet still the masterpiece of an age which was, in truth, to quote Carlyle again, "the blossoming of the previous centuries of "Catholicism"? That English-speaking Catholics may, at last, possess, as of right they should, the true key to English literature

BEATUS, O. S. B.

Seeking a Goal.

A gentle child of earth,
 A modest human soul,
 Feeling a loss, a dearth,
 Speeds, seeking a veiled goal.

The hills are cold with snow,
 Vexed by the wind and rain,
 Where she is fain to go,
 For Fate pursues amain.

Upon high cliffs austere,
 The soul shines like a star;
 Fleeing in hope and fear,
 And climbing fast and far.

“ Hide me, O mist ! ” she cries,
 “ Hide me, O rugged stone !
 Hide me, tempestuous skies,
 Unnoticed, and alone.

Fain would I live and die—”
 In vain, the mists have wrought
 A rainbow, arching high,
 Glory, undreamed, unsought.

A monument, the stone
 Has raised to deathless fame,
 And on its face alone,
 Is graved that fair soul’s name.

The skies, their gates of light,
 Have opened, and the soul
 Enters, a vision bright,
 Finding, at length, her goal.

CAMEO.

Debate on Reform Spelling.

Resolved that Reformed Spelling as advocated by President Roosevelt is detrimental to the English language, was debated by the following gentlemen :—N. Bawlf, '09, and E. F. Byrnes, '09, for the affirmative ; and M. Doyle, '08, and A. Fleming, '09, for the negative.

Mr. Bawlf opened the debate as follows :—

MR. CHAIRMAN,—We share in the universal respect and esteem which President Roosevelt has gained for himself by his many services for humanity. When, with all the weight of his justly acquired renown not to speak of the prestige given him by his position at the head of the United States Government, he decided for Reformed Spelling and decreed that all documents emanating from the White House at Washington should be printed in accordance with the new method, sponsored by Andrew Carnegie, we felt inclined to think that the matter was settled for all time. But, if sometimes Homer

nods, it has appeared evident to us since that, great statesman as President Roosevelt has proved to be, this time he has blundered. The new method of spelling as advocated by him so impulsively can never, we are convinced, be accepted.

If we look back over our history we come to the conclusion that since the time of W. E. Gladstone, no deadlier blow has been dealt the English language than the so-called Reformed Spelling which President Roosevelt and his associates seek to impose on the English-speaking world. As far back as 1882 the movement to revolutionize our spelling was inaugurated, only to fail signally. An attempt to revive it later in America was still-born. A further effort in the same direction in 1898 was just as futile. Since history repeats itself, the movement of 1906 will certainly pass into the same category of failure as its predecessors.

The advocates of Reform Spelling are misled by the supposed advantages of their hobby. They argue that to conform spelling to pronunciation will render our speech easier; that it will save space and time in printing; that it will help our children to acquire their education with greater speed and less difficulty; that the acquisition of our peculiar language by foreigners will be facilitated. These are the immediate advantages to be hoped for from Reformed Spelling: the ultimate result is one uniform language dominating the world. But, Mr. Chairman, it is a beautiful dream, but it is an impracticable, impossible one, a chimera. Instead of the advantages which the ill-advised scholars who form the Reform Spelling Committee appointed by President Roosevelt hope for, we shall see inextricable confusion and anarchy, we shall see insurmountable difficulties replace the old ones, we shall see progress and education stopped, and we shall see ourselves cut off from the best part of our literary inheritance.

The very least of objections to this abrupt departure from the old spelling is the inevitable confusion it creates for schools, printing offices and private correspondence. The old and the new spelling will clash and will tend to clash more and more. The eye and the mind will have to accustom themselves to a double set of impressions, viz., of words now pronounced alike and spelled differently and of the same words pronounced according to their

spelling. Will this double work be easier for our children. Will it be easier for those who are learning English.

Let us suppose that the contemplated uniformity of spelling would one day be an accomplished fact. Would it help? Would it not degrade and impoverish our language? Why, the very irregularities of our language which the self-styled reformers disdain, actually teem, overflow, with such historical associations. They are replete with deep sentiment. They in many cases show the origin and development of our glorious tongue. In these very irregularities lie the genius of the language, are explained its precious idioms. What the foreigner, the student prizes most in our language are those irregularities. Destroy them and you destroy the greater part of its merit and attractiveness. No, Mr. Chairman, the Reformers are attempting the impossible. A living tongue shows itself in its growth. In aiming at change of spelling, the followers of President Roosevelt attack, and would destroy, our language in its natural growth, but it is evident they cannot succeed.

It is, besides, an utter impossibility to bring about a genuine phonetic spelling of English. The number of letters in the alphabet are insufficient to represent the sounds used in our speech. The long and short vowels are inadequate for the purpose and here is an insuperable stumbling block in phonetics.

Let the promoters of this movement say that our spelling is archaic and perplexing and consequently difficult of acquisition. Even so, will the changes contemplated do away with the oddness, complexities. Not at all. Nor is our present system of spelling so difficult to acquire as those who are in a position to know acknowledge. In education our children are not behind those of Germany. Prof. Munsternberg, who has gained a deep insight into the German and English languages, affirms that education is retarded not by the spelling but by inaccuracy and superficiality. The Professor further states that the foreigner far from being assisted, will rather be hindered in the learning of English by the proposed reform in spelling. Another disadvantage to be feared from that reform is the encouragement it gives to slovenly and incorrect spelling.

The reformers profess to be seeking uniformity. I ask you if there is anything more uniform than our spelling. Wherever you go

you will find thorough t-h-o-r-o-u-g-h and likewise for the other words deemed to have too many variations in their spelling.

The advocates of reform cherish the dream of making English the world-language of the future: by its uniformity of spelling it would impose itself. What a glorious conquest for these would-be Napoleons? Alas! What assures them that the old spelling will finally disappear before their efforts? What assures them that the new style will not bring in a new dialect? A new dialect—think of that, lovers of good English! In the near future those who talk in this dialect will be ignorant of English as it is now spoken. And will this draw closer the union of English-speaking countries with the motherland of our language. On the contrary, it will rather tend to separation and break that long united bond with the Elizabethan period to which belongs that glorious genius, Shakespeare. Thus the users of the new dialect would be cut off from the greatest literary inheritance any people could probably hope to possess, the literature constructed by the long line of great minds from Shakespeare's time, and before, down to our own day. As the President of the University of California describes the situation: "That reform means isolation and a diversive movement promising loss and waste to intercourse and culture."

One more remark. It is impossible for the English tongue ever to become universal. What other nation would be willing to surrender its own language with what is associated with it in order to accept the language of another. The slightest acquaintance with social and ethnological questions would remind us of this. Even this reluctance is seen in Ireland to day where the Gaelic league is laboring successfully to restore the almost extinct Irish tongue. The feeling that underlies the effort, exists in every country where there is a language to be proud of. And Irishmen are returning to their own tongue, desirous and hoping to see Ireland its former self, with its Irish characteristics portrayed in its own Gaelic language.

Undoubtedly we welcome reforms when they are truly productive of good. But we judge that the only reasonable course is to oppose with all our might this spelling reform as advocated by President Roosevelt. It is a reform not only detrimental to our language but also undesirable and impossible.

Mr. Doyle then followed for the negative.

MR. CHAIRMAN, etc.—From what you have just heard about the simplified spelling you naturally would conclude that it is an innovation to create unlimited confusion with regard to the spelling and meaning of words. But it is not. This reform which has recently received the advocacy of the President of the United States, is simply an acceleration of an established and historical process which has been going on gradually and without confusion ever since the language began to be printed. Our words are not spelled now as when they were first used, neither are they spelled like those of Shakespeare or Bacon. The reform may be defined as the removal of the silent and superfluous letters from the spelling of the three hundred words proposed, and an attempt to establish, where possible, an analogy in spelling along phonetic lines so as to make both spelling and pronunciation more uniform. It is not an attack on the language of Shakespeare because it is in many instances a going back to the forms he used, nor is it an attempt to do anything sudden or violent but just to cast what weight can properly be cast on the side of popular forces, which are endeavoring to make our system a little less foolish and less fantastic. In this step there will be found no cause for the alleged confusion nor no cause for any disturbance among philologists.

The logic of spelling words as they are pronounced cannot be denied. Unless words are pronounced as they are spelled many complexities arise not only among the poorly educated classes but also its difficulties extend into the daily writings and correspondence of professors of English literature, and, since this is the case, it is fully justifiable to reform our system of spelling upon a uniform basis so as to reduce the liabilities to mistakes. It is with this object in view that the said President with his associates have made a vigorous attempt to put into effect a revised system for spelling certain of our words in common usage which have suffered many abuses since time immemorial. The most adverse criticism offered by its opponents is the contention that by changing the spelling of English words we destroy all semblance of their derivation. This objection is logically taken from a strictly literary and sentimental point of view but the language must be used by all persons, literary and otherwise and its simplification means an unlimited benefit to the language and its

writers. Is it not a matter of regret to have attached to so many English words two and three words spelling nothing and meaning nothing apart from acting as souvenirs of their derivation? Again, take our dictionaries and in them you will find a wide difference of opinion as to the spelling of many words. There is no reason for a condition of this kind for words should be spelled in one way and that way should be correct instead of having three different ways for spelling the same word and all three ways correct.

This reform is not unreasonable nor is President Roosevelt advocating it without assistance. The Board of Simplified Spelling is wholly composed of men most prominent in educational movements and among them we find Mr. W. J. Harris, editor of the latest edition of Webster's Dictionary. Mr. P. G. Scott, editor of the Century, and we also have the editor of the Standard Dictionary, Mr. I. A. Funk. The steps they have taken are coincident with the views of the ablest and most practical educators of our time as well as the most profound scholars. Therefore in view of the influential men supporting the reformed spelling it cannot be said to be foreign as the region of reason and practicality. The purpose of this organization (S. S. B.) is to expedite the natural process of change which has been going on for centuries and, as far as may be possible, of guiding it in the direction of simplicity and economy. It will urge educated people everywhere to aid in the gradual simplification of English spelling, and thus help to make the English language more and more easy to acquire and to use.

All whose mother-tongue is English believe that if it is not unfairly handicapped it will become the dominant and international language of the world. For this destiny it is fitted by its use as the medium of the widest commerce and the most progressive civilization, by its cosmopolitan vocabulary, and by its grammatical simplicity. No other existing speech and none of the proposed artificial international languages, has the same adaptability to such a use. There is however a widespread and well grounded conviction, that in its progress towards this goal, our language is handicapped by one thing and one thing only—its intricate and disordered spelling, which makes it a puzzle to the stranger within our gates and a mystery to the stranger beyond the seas. English is easy, adaptable, and capable of a many-sided development; its spelling is difficult and

cumbersome as well as being dishonest and absurd. It does not fully represent our spoken language and is getting farther and farther away from it all the time and therefore to keep up such a farce is not becoming to a sensible people.

Apart from its relation to the foreigner our intricate and disordered spelling also places a direct burden upon every native user of English. It wastes a large part of the time and effort given to the instruction of our children, keeping them for example from one to two years behind the school-children of Germany and condemning many of them to alleged illiteracy all their days. Moreover the printing, typewriting and handwriting of useless letters which our spelling perscribes and upon which its difficulty chiefly rests, wastes every year millions of dollars and time and effort worth millions more. If then, as is certain, the reasonable and gradual simplification of our spelling will aid the spread of English, with the attendant advancement of commerce and of intellectual freedom; will economize the time of our school-children and make their work more efficient; and will aid greatly in the cheapening of printing, is it not a matter which appeals to common sense, to patriotism, and to philanthropy?

The slight changes in the words proposed represent nothing but that unconscious movement which has made students as well as mechanics write plow for plough, that which makes most people write honor without the somewhat absurd "u," just as all who speak English now write bat, set, dim, sum, fish, while in former ages they wrote batte, sette, dimme, summe and fysch, that same unconscious movement which makes us write "public, almanac, fantasy and wagon" instead of the ancient publick, almanack, phantasy and waggon. In the same direction as this unconscious movement, have President Rosevelt and his associates very carefully proceeded and have concluded that there are general analogies upon which rules of a certain kind may be founded and it is within the range of possibility to extend these rules by the elimination of the exception. No sweeping change is necessary and there will be no ground for the charge of radicalism. The President in advocating this movement has not the slightest intention of doing anything revolutionary towards the Mother language, but as an enthusiastic admirer of the Anglo-Saxon tongue he sees no reason why it should not become as widely dominant as the race. He believes that the straightening of

the orthographic tangle will render the language so easy for foreigners to write that its use may become almost universal and the most diplomatic of languages.

Below we give a few of the rules so far formulated for the use of the reformed speller just to show that the reform is not impossible :

1. When offered a choice between ae and e, choose e; ex-esthetic, medieval.

2. Don't double the t in coquet, epaulet, etiquet, omelet.

3. Omit the silent terminal ue when allowed. Ex. catalog, pedagog, decalog.

4. Spell theatre, centre, etc., in the English way—center, theater, niter, miter.

5. Always omit u from words sometimes spelled with our, Ex. labor, rumor.

If this reform is successful it will differ from our present spelling about one-third as much as this differs from the spelling of Shakespeare. All the opponents of the changed order of things will become accustomed to it and many there are who predict that before many days have passed they will cease to criticize the President and its promoters and develop an expertness in the reformed spelling that will delight the English-speaking world.

Mr. E. F. Byrnes, then rose for the affirmative.

MR. CHAIRMAN,—Forces that bring about evolutions in a language operate of themselves and are set in motion, not by the arbitrary decision of a man but by the changing customs and manners of a people. It follows naturally, that a bold and arrogant attempt, on the part of a few Americans to disturb the system of English spelling, will at least be the subject of ridicule if not the object of censure.

Though perhaps the prime movers of this undertaking are men of judgement, from its very nature it tends to destroy the uniformity of the language. If such a thing were possible the first step to take would be to obtain the consent and influence of the whole English speaking world. The soundness of such a move depends not so much on the ability of the leaders as on the number of the followers.

When such a movement has gained head-way free from all restraint it is sure to go beyond all reasonable limits. In theory simplification seems laudable, in practice it might prove beneficial.

Indeed who would not welcome, center, savior, traveler, quartet, cigaret, program, colum, solem and every natural improvement, but who on the other hand would not abominate thru, tho, nu, or, at which are substitutes instead of simplifications ?

In different parts of a country, in fact in the same vicinity, we may observe how pronounciations vary. This being the case, we can suppose what might be the result if we spelled as we pronounced and this, I say, is the object of the new Spelling Reform. Naturally we would have many distinct dialects in a very limited area. If this phonetic idea is allowed to gain favor, as it is proclaimed today, nothing else but a chaos in the language will follow. Some will approve of it, some will disapprove of it and of the former many will disagree, as there is no solid foundation to their work, though they may have supposed they were starting on the right path of simplification.

Mr. Fleming then spoke for the negative.

MR. CHAIRMAN, etc.—We will begin from the beginning, examine and find out the natural tendency followed by the different nations, in building up literature. We all know that the Roman alphabet is in use practically all over the civilized world. At the time when this code of letters was chosen, there were two great alphabets in existence, namely the Greek and the Roman. Now, Mr. Chairman, the scholars of Europe unanin. casly adopted the Roman in preference to the Greek alphabet. And why did the ancient scholars of Europe prefer the Roman to the Greek alphabet, when they were embarking on the difficult task of forming new languages, when they were nursing and moulding the languages of France, England and Germany? The Greek alphabet represents a language of as great an array of literary writers as the world has ever seen, and why did the ancient scholars of Europe prefer the Roman alphabet to one representing a greater language. Mr. Chairman, they chose the Roman in preference to the Greek alphabet because it was simpler, and I am sure that everyone in this Hall is grateful to them for so doing. No one of common sense is desirous of being vexed and bothered by the knowledge that there are half a dozen ways of writing one letter which is only one of the many complexities of the Greek language. Therefore, Mr. Chairman, the first step toward simplified spelling was taken,

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.

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No. IV.

TO WORK.

The students are all back from their holidays. We welcome them. We missed them, though we are happy they enjoyed themselves. Wise in our generation we have a word to whisper to our young friends—*To work gentlemen!* Already we are watching the horizon for the June examinations. Then, is the time of stress and storm. Strange to say, the majority of the candidates pass safely matriculation. Perhaps their success was due to extra work and preparation made for this first test. Two years after the matriculants, flushed with success and rendered over-confident, are bowled over like nine pins at the intermediate. And what is a sad feature the fallen do not seem to have the power to recover. Their bruises prevent them from trying the final two years later and it is noticed that the graduates are to be counted by twos and threes. Now, in our opinion this chronic failure to pass exams and take degrees is

due, not to lack of brains, but to the dilatoriness with which the students settled down to their books after their holidays. Gentlemen there are now no games to call away your attention. Here is a long stretch of quiet winter to help you to get on intimate speaking terms with your class books. Make the most of it for study. Be not content with a cursory glance at the lecture for the day. Give it a second look, then a third and sharper glimpse, a fourth, a fifth, too. Take notes. And when next June you line up under your Argus-eyed examiners you will need neither notes nor books.

REV. DR. NILLES.

By the transfer of Rev. Dr. Nilles to the charge of the Oblate community of Mattawa, the University loses one of its most prominent professors. Born at Metz the young Nilles, after passing through the schools of his native city, continued his classical studies at Noire Dame de Lumière, near Nancy, France. Having joined the Oblate order the brilliant young scholar was sent to Rome where at the famous Gregorian University he won, with great distinction, his degrees in Theology and Canon Law. His talents and his wishes inclining him to the arduous labor of higher education, his superiors ordered the young doctor to the University of Ottawa. Here, on his arrival in December, 1884, Rev. Fr. Nilles took up the teaching of philosophy, being well qualified by his acquaintance with Cardinal Zigliari in Rome, to interpret the text-books designed by this eminent author for a two years' course in metaphysics and kindred branches. Fr. Nilles also gave the benefit of his ripe scholarship in lectures on French literature, history, ancient and modern, the philosophy of history, on political economy and on government. He was Vice-Rector and Prefect of Studies for several terms. His work at all times met with the most fruitful results. Thousands of Ottawa College graduates look up to him in gratitude and pride. While we regret our loss in the departure of this able educator we wish him every success in his promotion to a more pleasing sphere of action.

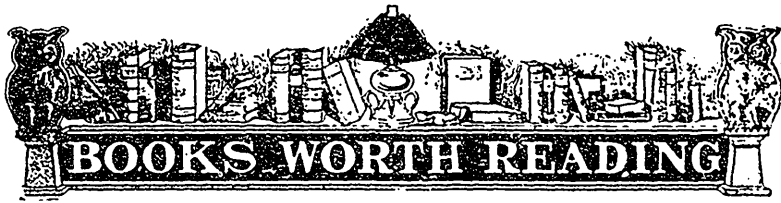
MEN OF MARK.

In the *Catholic Record* for Jan. 19th we read: "Two men in our midst have recently been given positions of honor, Mr. D'Arcy Scott of Ottawa, who has been elected mayor of our capital city, and Mr. Charles Devlin who has been returned by a large majority to represent Nicolet in the House of Commons. Both are young men, but, nevertheless, their career so far gives us assurance that they will attain the top rung of the ladder." The University is proud to claim Mr. Scott as one of her sons. Mr. Devlin has already sat in the Canadian Commons. In 1903 he became Nationalist member for Galway in the imperial Parliament from which he has just recently resigned. As an orator he has few equals in the Dominion. The *Record* in the same issue gives what purports to be "an American opinion of Sir Wilfrid Laurier." This is an eulogistic account of the career of the Premier of Canada, and we all know that the eulogy is well deserved. Evidently, Sir Wilfrid is cast in the "mould of nation-builders." By the way, the publisher and proprietor of the *Record* is Senator Thomas Coffey, a man who, in his own quiet way, has contributed much to build up this country, and whose life is above reproach, "whose aims are honorable, straightforward and sincere, whose ideals serve to bring prosperity and glory to the country in whose service his life is being spent."

RIDICULOUS !

The Liverpool *Catholic Times* can find no other term than ridiculous for the catechism which Sir Oliver Lodge has published "to afford a partially scientific basis for future religious education". What Sir Oliver means by "a partially scientific basis" is, of course, a partial basis of the natural sciences, and this is pure nonsense. Religion is not based on the natural sciences any more, perhaps less, than the science of mathematics but is a science in itself, the parts of which all fit together into one harmonious whole quite as much as the parts of chemistry, and more so than those of biology. The science of religion is based, not on the sciences of physics, botany and zoology but on the revelation of God Himself. True science

and true religion cannot contradict each other ; but true science is fact and not theory, and true religion is the teaching of God, and not So-and-So's interpretation of the Bible. Sir Oliver makes a double mistake in thinking his ideas of science and of the Bible are correct. Sir William Ramsay, himself a Nestor of science, says Sir Oliver's science is "pure theory". Does Sir Oliver Lodge fondly imagine that the Son of God could be so lacking in wisdom, intelligence and foresight as to have passed his life on earth without taking full and proper precautions in the establishment of means for expounding and protecting the message and teaching He decided to convey to mankind through all ages? People, who are satisfied to trust in surmise, theory, and conjecture as a preparation and a guide for their career beyond the grave, will find in Sir Oliver's catechism just the dead-sea fruit they want. Here is his first question and answer : " Q.—Who are you? A.—I am a being alive and conscious upon this earth, my ancestors having ascended by gradual processes from lower forms of animal life, and with struggling and suffering became man". This, of course, is Darwinism elevated into dogma, and to reiterate the words of Sir William Ramsay "it is pure theory to say that our ancestors ascended by gradual processes from the lower forms of animal life". The lowest forms of life known to present-day science are the bacteria and single cell vegetables and animals. Perhaps Sir Oliver will tell us how it comes about that after the indubitably long time demanded by the Darwinians for the evolution of so complicated a being as man, we still have those simple organisms as they were, and unchanged by the ages of natural and other selection? How comes it that so erratic and chanceful a power, as natural selection is put down to be, has acted in harmonious unison to produce the two hundred and ten bones, five hundred and fifty muscles, heart, blood vessels, nerves, lungs, stomach, liver, brain, eyes, ears, and other complicated organs of man all unified into a noble and intelligent being? Darwinism is after all but a theory and to elevate theory into dogma and tack it on to religion is the great mistake Sir Oliver Lodge makes in his catechism. Evidently for "future religious education" the old penny catechism of our fathers in the faith is much to be preferred.



Exchanges.

McMaster University Monthly is a newsy college paper. In "The Story of the McMaster Lit" is given an imposing array of names of old students. Sophette's "How to write a Composition" is a humorous skit. The December issue opens with a very readable article entitled "Browning's 'Paracelsus'". "A Son of the Forest" is a Redskin tragedy.

The *St. Jerome Schoolman* receives many bouquets from exchanges, and deserves them. The December number furnishes two serious and very instructive articles entitled respectively "Government" and "Fortune Telling and Witchcraft." The stories are replete with incidents taken from real life. "The Exman Abroad" is particularly good.

As usual the *Abbey Student* is interesting from cover to cover. The following verses are from a poem "The Homecoming of the Boy":

He's been off to the big college
Where they teach him everything,
Where the very air is knowledge,
And he's told not to 'butt in !'

The folks at home sit hoping
That their boy's grown big and tall ;
That he's just about twice as manly,
As when he left them in the fall.

That he's learned a lot of manners,
That he knows most all 'bout Greek ;
That he's skilled in mathematics,
And knows just how to speak ;

The *Allisonia* is an attractive little paper. In November, '06, it began its fourth volume with a new staff of editors who introduce themselves modestly, saying, "If we do not attain to the perfection of last year please be kind towards us in your criticisms because it is our highest aim to give you of our very best". Never fear, brave hearts! you are delivering the goods.

The *Xaverian* for November bids farewell to Dr. Thompson, the retiring Principal who had served on the staff for fourteen years. Dr. H. P. McPherson succeeds. The editor also calls upon the student body for aid to make the *Xaverian* a creditable reflection of college ideals, a truthful mirror of the many sided life of college.

The REVIEW receives a slight mention from the Manitoba College *Journal*, which is very encouraging, coming as it does from this very reserved publication. Besides a good cut of the Rev. Principal and some local notes, "Freshmen" are held up for humorous comment both in verse and prose.

Dr. McKenzie King, Deputy Minister of Labor, editor of the *Labour Gazette*, has been made a C. M. G. by His Majesty, King Edward VII. This is a well-merited honor and the REVIEW wishes to congratulate the happy recipient. As the *Gazette* for December informs us, Dr. King, after lengthy negotiations, effected a settlement of the coal miners' strike at Lethbridge, Alberta, under the Conciliation Act of 1900. The strike of the miners had been declared eight months before, and such was the scarcity of fuel induced that farmers in the Craik district "were coming thirty-five miles for coal and obliged to return without a shovelful." This was on November 13th. When at length work was resumed at the mines on December 3rd the suffering had become most acute. Orders from one company in Prince Albert brought the answer: "We have neither slabs, edgings nor cuttings, and though we have inquired we are unable to purchase cordwood—there is none in the city."

Donahoe's Magazine opens the new year with a very varied and interesting list of features. The situation in France is thoroughly discussed. In a paper on "Conditions in the Congo Free State" much testimony of weight is quoted to uphold the administration of

the Belgian King. There is much other reading, instructive and entertaining.

In the *Catholic World* for January Father Searle begins a study of spiritualism or spiritism. "Strictly speaking," he writes, "there is, perhaps, nothing absolutely new in all these modern occurrences. They have great value from being accurately and faithfully observed and reported by men of great scientific ability or by others instructed by them in scientific methods, so that we have now a great mass of evidence carefully sifted, and freed at least from ordinary sources of error". On February 20, 1882 the investigators formed themselves into "The Society for Psychical Research." Sir William Crookes is one of the active members.

Book Review.

Davison's Practical Zoology. Cloth 12mo. 368 pages. Price \$1.
American Book Company, New York.

This is an elementary text book treating of the structure life, history and relations of animals. A comparatively small amount of laboratory work is indicated, and the animals to be used are such as may be secured almost anywhere. Numerous illustrations have been introduced. Much time and expense was given to the preparation of photographs which can be relied on as representing facts and approaching as nearly as possible to nature itself.

Robbins' Plane Geometry. Half leather, 12mo. 254 pages. Price 75 cents. *American Book Company, New York.*

All books on mathematics look much alike to us. Still, as the majority of us feel that it is incumbent to secure a respectable average on every subject in the Matriculation anything that helps will be rapturously embraced. So when the author declares that the diagrams in this book are superior in character, and the arrangement and typography of the text tend toward economy of time and effort on the part of the beginner we lay the book aside for a spare hour hoping that we shall not be disappointed.

La Bédollière's La Mère Michel et Son Chat. Cloth 12mo. 104 pages. Price 30 cents. *American Book Company, New York.*

A favorite story among French children when it appeared. The edition contains complete vocabulary and helpful notes.

Priorum Temporum Flores.

The Right Rev. Augustine Dontenwill, O.M.I., '80, on his way back to New Westminster after having attended, in Rome, the General Chapter of the Oblate Order, stopped off at Ottawa and honored Alma Mater with a short visit.

On January 7th, Mr. D'Arcy Scott, a former student and an eminent lawyer of the Capital, was the successful candidate in the mayoralty elections of the city, winning by a majority of 188 over his nearest opponent.

The Rev. Joseph McDonald '03, while on a visit to his home during Christmastide, preached an eloquent sermon in St. Joseph's Church.

The debaters chosen to defend Osgoode Hall against Trinity University on January 11th, were two graduates of Ottawa University, Messrs. George L. Kelly and Hugh J. Macdonald.

St. Joseph's Scholasticate, Ottawa East, has a new superior in the person of the Rev. William J. Charlebois, O.M.I., '86, for some time a professor of the University and last year's delegate of the Canadian province to Oblate General Chapter. Father Charlebois' long residence at the Scholasticate and the important positions he always held in the directing of the community, marks him as particularly well-fitted for the important office to which he has been appointed.

The visit to the University of the Rev. Richard Carey '03, was a most pleasing one to his friends both among the students and the professors. Father Richard is temporally stationed as curate at Kemptville, Ont., and we hope we shall often see his genial face about the College.

The Rev. G. Gauvreau O.M.I. '81, for a long time and up to a few years ago, the distinguished professor of Chemistry of Ottawa University, has been made Procurator General of the Canadian Province of the Oblate Order.

On his way East, Dr. Tiernay of St. Albert renewed old acquaintances at Ottawa College.

At the Christmas ordinations, the Rev. W. J. Collins O.M.I. '03 received deaconship from his Grace, Archbishop Duhamel.

During the 'Xmas holidays we were pleased to see around the College the familiar face of Mr. Gerald Dunne of McGill, and of Messrs. G. Kelly, Hugh J. Macdonald and Roderick Byrnes of Osgoode Hall.

OBITUARY.

MR. MICHAEL McGUIRE.

It was with deep regret we learned, on January 4th, of the death of Mr. Michael McGuire, father of the Rev. James P. McGuire, O.M.I. Fr. McGuire is a member of the College staff. To Rev. Fr. McGuire and to all the members of the bereaved family the REVIEW extends sincerest sympathy. I. P.

MRS. PATRICK H. HARTY.

On Jan. 11th Mr. Wm Harty, matriculant of '99, was deprived by a premature death of his mother, Mrs. Patrick H. Harty. The REVIEW offers to Mr. William Harty heartfelt sympathy of condolence. R. I. P.

Of Local Interest.

As usual everybody has the "blues" after the holidays. Cheer up, boys, June is coming.

Our genial football captain has failed to put in an appearance this term, and strange to say the local editor has, as yet, been unable to locate him—even his last resort, a M-c-r-a-r-m special having failed. Tom was a general favorite with the student body and is greatly missed.

"The Pride of Killarney" will be presented in Harmony Hall on Tuesday evening, Feb. 12, under the auspices of the Debating

Society. The cast of characters is a very capable one, and the fact that Rev. Dr. Sherry is in charge, augurs well for the success of the affair. As the Society is in a bad shape financially, it behooves each member to lend a helping hand.

Our old friend Mr. A. Hogan of Syracuse paid Ottawa a visit during the holidays but left before the boys returned. Why such a nasty departure, Allan? Hope you had a good time.

What's the proper thing in wall paper this spring, J-r-y; or isn't the new stock in yet? Somebody said one of the lay-profs. was furnishing a house and would like to know. Is that so, J—k?

The Gaelic Society has reorganized under the capable direction of Rev. Bro. Finnegan, and is making excellent progress. At its last meeting two new members were received, Rev. Frs. Hammersley and Stanton. They will be a big addition to the Society and are entering into the work with a vim that means success. We understand that Rev. Fr. Kelly is to be initiated shortly. Congratulations, Father.

The latest: Rideau rink—12 to 1 p.m., b tl-rs in attendance. Own up, Mac.

J-n-s.—My eyesight is not affected.

F-t.—Well it's the only thing about you that isn't.

M. S.—Has our lobster a shell?

J. L.—No, he has a crust.

The REVIEW staff learns with regret that one of its members is likely to return to the land of his birth shortly. It *may harass* us considerably to replace him.

Have a care for your stock in jewelery, Q- - -m! The market seems to have a tendency to be smit(h)ten lately.

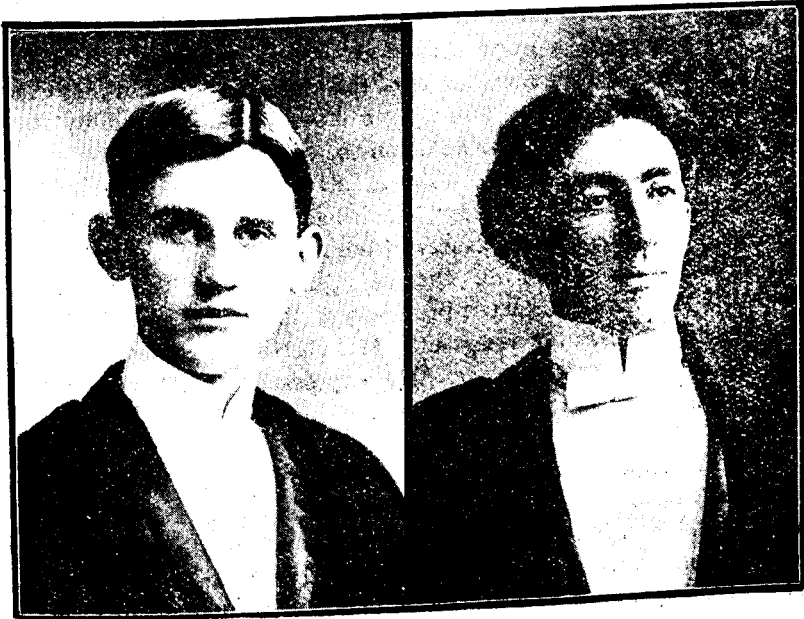
While passing McC-r-h-'s room late the other night, the local editor overheard the following production of Mc's poetical imagination:

“ When my last wink in vain is wunk,
When all my weary thoughts are thunk,
What saves me from a shameful flunk?
My pony!! ”

The telescope reveals in part
A shining star at noon-day,
But the telephone explains how *Art* - - -
Sees *Monday* every Sunday.

At the last meeting of the Debating Society W. Grace and J. Lajoie upheld "That the importation of Oriental labor into Canada should be prohibited," against H. G. Burns and G. Gauthier. The debators did full justice to their subject although the time given them for preparation was rather short. Messrs. Bawlf, Byrnes, Costello and Veilleux spoke from the audience and adduced some interesting arguments both for and against cheap labor. The vote of the judges was in favor of the affirmative.

Recent occasions have exposed the fact that we have some very talented singers in our midst. All that is necessary is a little cultivation by way of running a plough through their voices with a little bird seed thrown in and their warbling may be a little more conducive to the health of their hearers and especially to the laws of harmony. That's knocking A. B. C some, eh Bill?



J. E. McNEILL, '07.

C. J. JONES, '07.

Ottawa's victorious representatives on the Toronto-Ottawa Inter University Debate in Toronto, on Dec. 7, 1906.

The following notes are taken from one of the local papers.

Mr. C. J. Jones is the son of J. Jones of Eganville, Ont. Having attended the Separate and High Schools of that place he matriculated at Ottawa University in 1903. During his course here he has taken a lively interest in all the student associations, notably debating, scientific and athletic. He was, last year, vice-president of the Intercollegiate Football Union, and president of the local University Athletic Association, an organization which boasts of having won more Rugby Championships than any other in the Dominion. During the season just ended he was manager of the senior team and figured on it with distinction. Mr. Jones is 22 years of age and will graduate in June. As a speaker he expresses his ideas with fluency and with much conviction.

Mr McNeill is the eldest son of John McNeill of Olga, North Dakota. He received his primary education in the public schools and Collegiate at Marysville, Ont., and is at present in final year Arts. He has made a good course at Ottawa, winning, last year, The Governor General's medal, one of the highest marks of merit in the course. His popularity among the students is attested by the many responsible positions he holds on the executives of the different student organizations, being treasurer of the Athletic Association, Business manager of the REVIEW, Chairman of the Reading Room committee, and Secretary-treasurer of the Inter-University Debating League, composed of McGill, Ottawa, Queen's and Toronto Universities. He was also elected President of the University Literary and Debating Society but resigned. Mr. McNeill is 20 years of age will graduate in Arts this year. He expresses himself with much grace and fluency, and is a speaker of considerable promise.

The REVIEW welcomes to the University the Rev. Father Perruisset who has taken charge of the classes lately taught by Rev. Father Nilles. Fr. Perruisset is a graduate of the Gregorian University, Rome, and is a man of high scholarly attainments. He has had a wide experience as a professor, and is a decided acquisition to the staff.