

The Tech

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In charge of this issue: W. F. DOLKE, 1908

Wednesday, March 28, 1906.

It is gratifying to learn that the Technology Fund now amounts to nearly a quarter of a million dollars.

The raising of this fund Technology will bring results of great value to the Institute.

It is not so much in the financial support given by our loyal alumni—we realize that this is considerable for a young institution—as in the developing of a sympathetic interest in the Institute and in all its activities. This will not be so apparent at first, but as time passes the same feeling that prompted every alumnus to contribute to the fund will become a strong sense of loyalty created by personal work for a common aim. And then the Institute of Technology will lack nothing to make her progress sure and her alumni proud of her success.

Mr. Andrew Carnegie has become sufficiently interested in spelling reform—some call it “fonetic refawm”

—to contribute \$15,000 Simplified a year to support the Spelling. work of the Simplified Spelling Board, a committee of the National Education Association, composed of such eminent men as Prof. Bronder Matthews, chairman; Dr. William Hays Ward, Mr. Henry Holt, Dr. I. K. Funk, and Colonel Sprague.

Of course nothing will be done, and this gift of Mr. Carnegie's may be considered more as the humoring of a hobby than as the expenditure of a sum to accomplish a definite, attainable end.

Mr. Melville Dewey, when he was regent of the University of New York, made a strenuous effort in favor of simplified spelling, but his attempts were hardly taken seriously, and Prof. Harry Thurston Peck of New York derived considerable amusement from Mr. Dewey's suggestions. At the present time the only evidences remaining of Mr. Dewey's work are seen in the use of *thro* and the dropping of the *me* and *te* in such words as programme and quartette, in some New York periodicals.

The trouble is that the English speaking countries are too many and too large for spelling reform. Were we Germany with an Emperor William, or France with an established Academy to care tenderly for our mother tongue, something might be done whether it were really needed or not; but it would be quite impos-

sible to get all England, the United States, Canada, Australia and the numerous “possessions over sea” to conform to the suggestion of a Simplified Spelling Board.

Reform in this line can be phonetic only; arbitrary alterations would merely make matters worse. Consequently the large number of us who have been taught to spell at all and who check ourselves considerably by visualization, would at once lose our orthographic bearings; and once we began to spell phonetically we should have a different spelling from each section of our own country, and a few more from our foreign cousins. We should have cothows from Dixie, cawthous from Noo Yawk and corthoeus from Mane. Then some of us would write *thro* for through and others would mean throw by *thro*, and would write *thru* for through. In other words we should have phonetic chaos, not reform.

Changes will come about in time, and they will be adopted, no doubt, quite generally; but they will be slower than we can realize. No one of the present generation, no one studying in America today, need trouble his head that he will have to learn over again how to spell, the Simplified Spelling Board notwithstanding.

READING NOTICE.

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