

tionaries, no library is complete without them, and there is no other book or authority that is more readily or frequently consulted, not only in this country but all of them where any form or degree of mental education prevails. This alone gives the book a high standing; but whether such standing is a reward of innate, indisputable and recognized merit or merely a conventional and convenient concession is the question at issue.

We incline to the opinion that there must or should in all cases where disputes arise and differences of opinion prevail, be an arbiter whose decree is final. Otherwise we should be lacking in system and effectiveness, for with every individual given the right to upset such decision we should be as badly off as though we did not have it at all. We may and in fact often do demur to and criticize the rulings of our supreme courts; we take occasion to point out now and then wherein their positions on certain phases of a matter decided are departures from recognized principles, and even at times in conflict with the law itself as previously understood and generally accepted. Luckily no one can deny us this right and no one should want to do so, because he may want to exercise it himself sometime. But we do not seek to reverse or overcome those mandates, even though we occasionally seek to mould opinions differently, and by means of a rehearing or having the points at issue brought up in another way to effect a reversal or modification. Even in this we recognize the human omnipotence of the court, for we seek a change not through ourselves or by means of extraneous measures, but through the action of the person or body recognized as alone having the power to grant it.

So with the dictionary. It undoubtedly has its full quota of defects and inconsistencies, which we allow for and may not abide by if we see fit, but such action only places one against the "eleven obstinate jurors," all the rest, practically, being the other way; so that we gain nothing but a reputation for "showing off" our researches and acquirements, and the authority assailed remains unmoved. It does not look well to see words spelled in all manner of ways, and in order to obviate this it is necessary to have a recognized standard, which in the United States is usually the lexicon of Worcester or Webster. But while their decisions settle any question as to orthography or orthoepy so far as legitimacy is concerned, and as to disputants is an end to the dispute by deciding it, it does not follow that the race is not entitled to progress, that it is to be forever held in the chains of an etymological system which in reality amounts to merely the crystallization of absurdity and irregularity; but in accomplishing reforms it should be remembered that everybody is not an authority and that common consent in such cases is the worse kind of reliance. Changes that came from higher up the intellectual scale are entitled to consideration, as they will surely sooner or later be adopted, until at last the incongruities and contrarieties of our orthographic system are eliminated altogether. Meantime, the dic-

tionary as it is the arbiter, because we must have one and to renounce it even in part would be to leave us at the mercy of every literary crank who takes a delight in airing his vagaries before a suffering world.

[COMMUNICATED.]

WHERE IGNORANCE IS BLISS, ETC.

The Utah farmer as a rule is not an experimentalist. He believes in wheat, however; but scientific or mixed farming, rotation of crops, the cost of his products, does not affect him much, providing he has bread for his family, lucern or hay for his stock, and surplus enough to meet a late season or provide for some obligation or improvement. The latter two may stimulate one here and there in his labor, and maybe gratify his ambition. The majority care only to work, to live hard and raise a family to just a little beyond this routine. It may be said that the farmer generally does not read enough, he does not think enough, he is seldom original, nor does he benefit by the experiences or experiments of others, save as he may notice the desultory efforts made within his very limited opportunities of observation.

Very few have become farmers from choice. They took to the soil in early days because old occupations were not here established; the plough was a *dernier ressort* for which neither nature nor culture had given them any special knowledge or predilection. They had been workers in foundries, in coal mines, factory hands, simple laborers or mechanics, and so there may be room for congratulation that the labor of more than half a lifetime has given partial success and a sunset of life without the clouds of extra anxiety. Wealth may be more abundantly theirs than it could have been under the Old World regime, but many hard knocks have been given without compensatory results, and any amount of labor has been wasted because of roundabout methods and unintelligent application.

It was said that the Lord laughed at the days of ancient ignorance, and not a few have smiled at the question as to "which cow gave the buttermilk," and some have laughed outright at sundry unsuccessful attempts at buttermaking, chicken raising, etc, which many a table has been scant because the mysteries of vegetable production in the season thereof had not become "familiar as household words." Such an one in the writer's employ, in years gone by, wrote an exultant letter, that he had in an excessive yet half-praiseworthy period of industry planted an entire box of seeds, which has just been received from New York; hardy, half hardy and tender had all gone in within a week; peas, onions, radishes, cabbage, beans, corn, squash, melons, cucumbers and tomatoes, quantity at once, variety at once, and so "it came to pass" that seed and labor alike were thrown away.

'Twas not of these, however, grievous or annoying, that comment asks or wants an audience today. It is in regard to the Utah wheat product in the raising of which, owing to good soil, irrigation and experience our

farmers have become somewhat of adepts, so much so that there is a certain surplus of more or less magnitude every year. This surplus secured in part by irrigation on small farms has been gathered and shipped to Texas, to Colorado, and past California farms of immense magnitude and easy culture, to London, the metropolis of all the nations, meeting there as competitors those nearer the market, those from places where less labor is always required, and the old English farmer also whose land is rented, yet whose crops are in excess of all others on a common basis of money value, bushel for bushel.

Remedies have been suggested from time to time for the avoidance of this circumlocution in disposing of excess. The creation of home industries, factories, foundries and mining have been lauded as the panacea for all the farmer's ills. Non-producers, it was said, would consume at home all his extra supply of grain, hay, butter, potatoes and other farm products, and that then prices would (as a matter of course) advance.

Wheat is lower today in Chicago, the great grain market of our country, than for many years, only sixty cents per bushel being the price obtainable, for which many and diverse reasons are given. There is said to be double the quantity of visible surplus wheat in the United States and Canada that there was at the same period last year, or about seventy-five millions of bushels; and this with grain at sea in transit, and grain held in Europe unsold, aggregates a little beyond this quantity, and thus makes an asserted total of more than one hundred and fifty-two million bushels still remaining from last year's crop, or an excess of fifty-three million bushels as held over on the same date last year!

If the price at which this wheat is held excites the attention of the agricultural world because of its lowness, what shall we say of Utah wheat which rarely gets beyond that price from year to year—a price which has made it possible to ship it a thousand miles by rail, and the "from the rivers to the ends of the earth" to get a market besides! While this has been done continuously Utah dealers have furnished the Utah public and Utah farmers with thousands of carloads of dried salt bacon, smoked bacon and hams, with unlimited quantities of lard to boot.

Surely, if ever there was room or occasion for experiment it is right here. Wheat is almost a drug on the market at sixty cents per bushel, and yet its feeding quality is so well established that for men bread is called "the staff of life." The query is, "Will wheat feed hogs?" and the reply is not far to seek. The world has heard of corned pork, but the choice rasher and the juicy ham of old England is not the product of corn at all; boiled potatoes mixed with a little bran (not the roller mill kind), and as a finish some rye or pea meal, or some good, fresh poliard or shorts, as it is called here, make the toothsome sparerib, chine and those cuttings and scraps which enter so largely into many a poor man's home.

We need not ignore the fact that pork has been decreed, that it is said to produce trichinae and other evils,