

miscreants who invade a home circle, win the love of a pure woman that they may rob her of that which millions would not redeem nor compensate for, dealt with more lightly? Let this discrimination in favor of the blacker criminal and the viler wretch cease, and punish him in proportion to his guilt and the ruin he has wrought!

AS TO IMMIGRATION.

The question of restricting immigration will again be discussed by Congress at an early date. Opinions on the subject differ. The commissioner general of immigration in his last annual report expresses the view that the statistics do not justify the conclusion that the alien population is increasing in undue proportions. In fact, he doubts, in view of the approximate estimates of the number that return to the old countries, whether there has been any increase worth mentioning since 1893.

The arrivals the last fiscal year were 343,267. This is an increase over two preceding years, but below that of every preceding year since 1886. By comparing this number with the average annual immigration for ten preceding years, it shows a decrease of 21 per cent.

The commissioner further points out the quite important fact that most of these immigrants consisted of hardy people, skilled and unskilled laborers. They brought with them over \$5,000,000, and he knows of no case in which any of them has become a burden or a public charge.

It is hardly probable that the influx of immigrants from Europe will suddenly assume threatening proportions. From the northern parts of the Old World reports come of fair prosperity among the working classes. In case of a European war those most interested in leaving would be prevented from doing so by the vigilance of the military authorities. Immigration is therefore not looked upon as a great menace to the country. Surely, on this wide continent there is still room for thrifty producers and good citizens.

It is generally conceded, however, that some restriction is needed, so as to exclude, if possible, criminals and disreputable characters. No country can afford long to be the receptacle of the scum of other nations. International agreements more effective and comprehensive than those already existing might perhaps be entered into for the purpose of restricting the criminal and turbulent element to its own native soil. The benefits to the various countries of such an arrangement would be both evident and mutual.

FOR THE OLD FOLKS.

Mr. C. R. Savage, whose work in the interest of the aged citizens of Utah for years is well and widely known, announces that the Old Homestead company, which is to appear in this city next week, have kindly tendered their services for the amusement of the old folks, widows and orphans. A free matinee performance will be given for their benefit on Tuesday, December 16, and tickets will be distributed at the

President's office on Monday, December 14. There is no doubt that the beneficiaries will enjoy the performance a great deal. It is a fine old play and presented, we are told, with much ability.

REFORM IN SPELLING.

It seems singular that a reform so urgently demanded by the common sense of the age as is a change in English orthography, should make such slow progress. Everybody admits that a great reform here should be speedily effected. Not a voice is raised in favor of retaining the present system. The loss of time in educating a child, the waste of effort in mastering the absurdities of English spelling, and the many other reasons why a reform should be accomplished, are constantly reiterated, yet with very slight results.

The chief reason why a change is not effected seems to be the fact that leading educators and scholars cannot agree as to what that change shall be. One class desires to see the present English alphabet discarded entirely, and a new one adopted which shall correspond exactly with phonetic laws, while another class would make only gradual modifications in existing methods. Between these two extremes are many grades.

Benjamin E. Smith, one of the editors of the Century Dictionary, is an opponent of the radical phonetic plan, and expresses his views as follows:

It must, in fact, be conceded that the adoption by the public of any general, radical phonetic system is one of the most improbable things that can be imagined. The reasons for this assertion are obvious and have often been stated, but their full significance has seldom, I think, been grasped by the radical reformer. They are practically all-powerful, but their force is underestimated by the phonetists because, from a scientific point of view, they are trivial and unworthy of consideration. The first is the closely knit association, in all minds, between the form of the printed word, or of the printed page, and the spiritual atmosphere which breathes through our language and literature. There is a deep-rooted feeling that the existing printed form is not only a symbol but the most fitting symbol of our mother tongue, and that a radical change in this symbol must inevitably impair for us the beauty and spiritual effectiveness of that which it symbolizes. Could the literary spirit even of a Shakespeare, we feel, retain for us undiminished its delicacy and power if clothed in the spelling of the "Fonetic Nuz?"

He says that to one accustomed to the English language as it is, phonetic spelling comes with the same kind of shock that attends the sight of physical deformity, and then continues:

The most serious fact with which a radical reform has to deal is that the generation which is asked to adopt it has already learned the old inconsistencies and irregularities, and learned them by an effort so painful that the mere suggestion of reversing the process and unlearning them, and then learning new forms, however simple, causes a genuine chill of despair not unmingled with indignation. For the average man—that is to say, ninety-nine out of every hundred—the existing spelling is a personal possession. He has bought it with a price,

and a high one. It has become instinctive, except for an occasional reference to the dictionary. It is a tool which well serves all his ends, because he has adapted himself by long habit to its imperfections. What argument has the reformer capable of arousing him to the annoying and time-consuming, if not painful, effort to walk in the paths of phonetic rectitude?"

But a reform in spelling will be brought to pass. Civilization will not rest until this is accomplished. So will other reforms come in their order, growing out of the laws of progress, as evolutions of man's experience and his insatiable desire to advance. Our present absurd system of weights and measures must give place to one more intelligent, and even our coinage system must sooner or later be made to conform more nearly to natural laws and man's necessities. In short, man, as a race, must advance. It is his eternal destiny.

NEW YORK'S MORALITY.

Dr. Parkhurst a short time ago greatly shocked a stylish New York audience and a number of newspaper men by asserting that there are in New York no less than 250,000 men and women that have violated their marriage covenants. It was hoped that the noted preacher and reformer would kindly acknowledge that he had overestimated the number, but it appears he maintains that his statement is true.

Two hundred and fifty thousand is a large number for one city—just about forty per cent of the married population of New York. And the oratorature of the announcement is that no one seems to dare to challenge the doctor to produce proofs, for fear that he may disclose names and conditions that would startle his opponents. Someone might, however, venture to ask Dr. Parkhurst for information as to how many of these 250,000 belong to his own church, and to other Christian churches in New York.

In this country there exists great pride on account of the moral excellency of our men and women. True enough, the daily press tells of cases that would seem to scatter the idea some, but it exists nevertheless. Dr. Parkhurst's revelation is a stab to the heart of our national pride.

THE FOLLOWING suggestion for the prevention, if not cure, of diphtheria and other throat troubles is at least worthy of a fair consideration in cases where it is needed. A former school teacher says:

It is a well-known fact that the fumes of ammonia are death to most forms of bacteria. If you put a few drops of strong ammonia in the palm of the hand, then place the two palms together in the form of a cup, covering mouth and nose, and so breathe the fumes, the throat will be entirely relieved in a short time. This remedy is also valuable in cases of catarrh, and will relieve croup, where the child is old enough to inhale it without strangling. If teachers and parents would take pains to explain this ammonia cure to children and see that it was frequently used, diphtheria as an epidemic would be unknown.