

## SPELLING REFORM.

The following five rules have been recommended by the American Philological Association:

1. Omit *s* from the digraph *ea* when pronounced as *e* short, as in *head, bath, etc.*
2. Omit silent *e* after a short vowel, as in *hav, giv, etc.*
3. Write *f* for *ph* in such words as *alfabet, fantom, etc.*
4. When a word ends with a double letter, omit the last, as in *eg, shal, cliff, etc.*
5. Change *ed* final to *t* when it has the sound of *t*, as in *laest, imprest, etc.*

In advocating these changes in an address before the Spelling Reform Association at Philadelphia, Mr. North said: "There is no sound reason why every journal in the land should not at once adopt the five rules and resolutely carry them into the newspaper and job office. Within a month from the change, every constituency will be habituated to the improvement, and what is better, conscious that it is an improvement.

"The silent letters are nothing but the relics of modes of utterance which formerly prevailed. Omitted and elided sounds have disappeared, leaving behind them these gravestones for us to stumble over. Hundreds of these silent letters have disappeared in turn. The hundreds remaining will follow them some time. The eternal friction of language catches a new one every now and then. Why should they not all go at once, or in battalions?

"It is years since any of us first dropped the superfluous 'me' off 'programme.' Already many are used to dropping the final 'te' from the entire group of words like *cigarette, quartette, etiquette*; and the words have gained a manly, straightforward appearance from the elision.

There is nothing in the five rules more radical, more orthographically *outré*, than are the changes alluded to above. Why do we continue to carry that ugly 'ugh,' like an old man of the sea, upon the backs of our *thoroughs, throughs* and *boroughs*? Long ago the people of my county sanctioned its taking off, when they permitted the descendants of the founders of the first village planted on the head-waters of the Mohawk river to shorten up their 'Whitesborough,' so that the village letter-writer might have time to reach the mail before it closed. Who will miss the 'ue' that the spelling reform association begs the newspaper to drop from the rear of *catalogue* and *demagogue* where the pair have been silently catching a stolen ride for all these generations? Why should not the press be as fierce to kick this intruding letter *u* out of the alphabet as it is to drive a thief out of public office? Why must we use a *p* and an *A*, when a single *f* is better than both? Why should we longer flatter our consonants by the inevitable doublet at every possible opportunity? All the world stops when it is thro'—except the printer. With him, as with the witches, it is an endless 'double, double, toil and trouble.'

"Of the several phases of the practical aspect of this question as applied to journalism, the saving of time, labor and money is of the first importance. . . . A column of printed matter after the manner of the five rules, has shown a saving of not quite one letter to a line. If the whole paper had been spelled in the same economical fashion, the saving would have been 7,500 letters per day—more than 2,000,000 letters a year, or about one-thirty-sixth of the total number of letters used and re-used in the composition of the 313 issues. These figures become more impressive, when applied to the large quarto editions of the metropolitan press. They become still more impressive, when by an extension of the same calculation, we find that the 600 daily papers in the United States are setting up and re-distributing over and over again, 1,550,000,000 of the superfluous letters which would disappear unmissed and un-

mourned from our spelling, by the adoption of the five rules. The weekly and monthly press, numbering 5,300, are setting up the same number of superfluous letters. If the opponent of the spelling reform will stop long enough to count one billion, he may consent to believe before his task is finished, that it is worth while to save the vital energy, the precious time, the costly labor thus wasted in blind homage to the frailties of our mother tongue. To put this question in another form, this calculation shows that enough of these superfluous letters are used by those who neglect the five rules, to fill full five issues a year of the journal with which I am connected."

**SOMETHING TO LEARN.**—Learn to strive for much and to content with little. Do not imagine that the only reason why others fail of accomplishing all they undertake is because of ill-laid plans or misdirected efforts. There may,

## FLAMING GORGE.

A Government party several years ago explored the canyons of the Colorado of the West. They first proceeded down the Green river, which enters the Uintah range by a flaring, brilliant-red gorge, visible from the north at a distance of 20 miles. The great mass of mountain ridge through which the gorge is cut is composed of bright vermilion rocks; but they are surmounted by broad bands of mottled buff and gray, which come down with a gentle curve to the water's edge on the nearer slope of the mountain. This is the head of the first canyon of a series made by the river through this range. The cliffs are about 1,200 feet high. Major Powell named it Flaming Gorge. Our engraving illustrates the picturesqueness of the scenery in that neighborhood.

**A STRONG BANK.**—The Bank of England was



CAMP AT FLAMING GORGE, GREEN RIVER, UTAH.

say, there probably will come a time, when, weighed in the balance of another's mind, you yourself will be found wanting. We may all strive, but few of us can win even the half of all we hope to win. 'Tis an easy matter to have faith in ourselves, but not so pleasant to be proved by the world. There was but one Alexander the Great, but one Hannibal, one Scipio, one Caesar, one Napoleon. There was but one Shakespeare, and, too, there was but one Lancelot; yet, the world over, there is no fairer truth than the one Tennyson poetically placed before us:

"Lancelot is Lancelot, and hath overcome  
Five knights at once, and every younger knight,  
Unwares, holds himself as Lancelot,  
Till overcome by one."

We should have firm faith in ourselves and in our hopes and plans for the future, but we should never allow ourselves to be literally disappointed if many of our hopes should fail, and many of our plans remain forever undeveloped.  
—Rocky Mountain Husbandman.

incorporated in 1649. It covers five acres of ground and employs 900 clerks. There are no windows on the street; light is admitted through open courts. No mob could take the bank, therefore, without cannon to batter the immense walls. The clock in the center of the bank has fifty dials attached to it. Large cisterns are sunk in the courts, and engines in perfect order are always in readiness in case of fire.

**METAL STAGE CURTAINS.**—While Wagner's "Nibelungen" was being performed at Munich, recently, the drop-scene took fire. Happily there was a metallic curtain which separated the stage from the auditorium, and this was immediately lowered. After some little interruption, the fire was extinguished, and the actors went through the piece in the midst of the charred remains.