THE NEW PRONOUN.

A correspondent, who has evidently been reading the advanced educational periodicals, is in great trouble over the new pronoun "thon" which has been proposed by those who find it difficult to get along with the English of the Bible and Shakespeare. Our correspondent has seen a statement in The Critic to the effect that the new pronoun has been introduced in some of the schools of the north. Thus, in a school where there are both boys and girls, the teacher is supposed to say, "Every one must get his or her lessons perfect to-day," instead of "Every one must get his or her lessons perfect to-day."

Our correspondent is so seriously troubled by this statement that he writes to ask what The Constitution thinks about it? The Constitution is not an authority in such matters, any more than those whose minds have been warped by too large doses of Latin and Greek grammar, but it is safe to say that the new pronoun fills no long-felt want. It is simply the haphazard outgrowth of an attempt to fit the English language to the precise and invariable methods of Latin and Greek grammar. It is intended to be a further refinement of the language to suit the needs of those whose training has given them a more intimate acquaintance with the formality of Latin methods than with the genius of their own tongue.

A grammar of the English language has never been written, and probably never will be, since a little common sense can be made to supply its place. The awkwardness which the new pronoun is supposed to remedy exists not in the English language, but in the minds of those who write it awkwardly. It is not necessary for any right-minded school-teacher to say "Everybody must get his or her lessons perfect to-day." It would be much better to say, "The pupils must be perfect in their lessons to-day," or, better still, to drop into the colloquial style, "Every one should be perfect in their lessons to-day." There is nothing awkward or ungrammatical in this, so far as the construction of English is concerned. It is ungrammatical when measured by the Latin method—but what has Latin grammar to do with the English tongue? Our correspondent need not fret himself about "thon."