Tinkering the English Language.

Some grammatical crank recently succeeded in getting up quite a little boom over a proposed new pronoun, "Thon," (imperfect, singular number) and it is stated that some of the teachers in the public schools at Lewiston, Maine, have commenced teaching it.

The Sun, while always glad and willing to lend a helping hand to any educational enterprise that seems to be needed, desires to enter a vigorous protest against this on general principles, and especially:

1. It is not needed. There is no evidence that English-speaking people are suffering, or have ever suffered, from the lack of pronouns. Any person of fair, common-school education can generally lay his or her (here is where "thon" would come in) tongue on a pronoun that fits well enough when required. If the inventor of "thon" wants to get on, let him introduce itself in France, where they have no neuter gender, everything being either "he" or "she".

2. It is as much as the average citizen can stand now to procure the schoolbooks deemed necessary by teachers and school-book manufacturers, the changes being so frequent, and the adoption of "thon" would cause an entire revolution and enough profanity on the part of parents (male understood), to seriously cripple their chances of happiness hereafter. A case in point: A family moved to Milwaukee last September from Chicago. There were two school-children, one advanced enough for the high school. Up to date their books have cost about fifteen dollars, and new calls every few weeks, while the ones they used in Chicago are useless here.

The superficial observer may think that the adoption of such a little word as "thon" would affect only the grammar; but let not them "lay that flattering unction to thon's soul." The schoolbook fiend would not let up after once having achieved the grammar. A revised spelling book would follow, then a geography, and on, until the entire list was filled, even to copy-books and blank books for exercises. Fancy an example in arithmetic: "If a person buys a string of bananas at the rate of six for a quarter, and finds half of them worthless, and sells half of the sound ones at an advance of fifty per cent, how long will it take him to realize a fair profit on thon's investment?"

3. Once let "thon" get the upper hand, and it would not be long before "thec," "thon" and "thine" would be mixed in, and America would become a nation of Quakers as to speech, without their mutual understanding."

"I love, you love, he loves, they love, thon loves," etc. Shoot the thon!

"Hey diddle diddle, my son John.
I, he, she, they, and likewise thon."

—Peck's Sun.