

those of the third and fourth years are to give fifteen hours a week to teaching. The duties of the juniors are to be confined to (a) the correcting of exercises, (b) the superintendence of the playground, (c) the reading of dictation, (d) the revising of lessons and (e) the assisting of an adult teacher in class management; while the duties of the seniors are to be of a more advanced character, including the conducting of classes under the direct supervision of the head master or his assistants. The pupil-teacher's hard life is thus to be ameliorated, but what of the system which still makes an experiment of the classes in a school under the supervision of a mere novice whose own education is sadly deficient?

The spelling reformers are getting anxious and violent in Chicago; al-
most as violent as they once were in
Toronto and other sections of the
Dominion, though perhaps not more
anxious. The *Times-Herald*, of the
former city, chanced to say the other
day that "there is no phonetic
spelling that can possibly represent
the English language, none that can
give us uniformity unless the num-
ber of our vowel sounds is reduced
so that pronunciation and spelling
are simplified at the same time. The
great organic whole must be done
over at every part, and this would
be an impossible task even for a con-
gress of philologists." And this is
how the editor comes in for his
punishment at the hands of one of
the over-anxious spelling reformers:
"Is there an idiot outside of the *Times-
Herald* office who would say that no
phonetic spelling can possibly re-
present the English language, and
that we must reduce the number of
vowel sounds which we utter in order
to obtain any uniformity in our
spelling? Such drivell does not de-
serve answer." There exists a Can-
adian committee on this question

appointed at the last convention of
the Dominion Educational Associa-
tion, and the war raging in Chicago
should be of interest to the members
of that committee, if not to our
teachers generally. Dr. Andrews,
the new superintendent of schools
in the great western metropolis, has
sent a circular letter to his sub-
superintendents and teachers, coun-
selling some changes; but he has
not escaped being condemned for
encouraging the teaching of the
children to spell in defiance of
standard authority, and calls upon
the Board of Education to intervene
and not allow the taxes of the peo-
ple to be used for teaching the
children to mis-spell. We would
hardly dare take part in the con-
troversy, even if it were to be awak-
ened or re-awakened in Canada, so
many more serious educational
questions demanding our attention;
but if the movement is to be digni-
fied with the name of reform there
will be few of our educational re-
formers, with faith in the rightness
of things, who will swallow such an
ethical principle as this, even if it
comes from such a pretentious cen-
tre of education as Chicago. "Ex-
pediency and not logic or consist-
ency must be the watchword of re-
form, at least for a time. This
principle the committee has fully
accepted and announced in its re-
commendation of the two words
about which a question has been
raised. As one advocate of reform
we are thankful that the committee
decided not to be fettered by logic
or rigid consistency. We would
much prefer to see two simplified
spellings, even if not perfectly logi-
cal, adopted by the masses, than to
see a hundred words simplified with
an ideal consistency and so spelled
only by the theorists and doctrin-
aires."

There may be something in the