

THE ENGLISH SPELLING REFORM ASSOCIATION.

THIS vigorous and scholarly Association, now in the sixth year of its existence, is gaining the ear of the thinking public. It is making itself widely felt, and has a lusty coadjutor in the Spelling Reform Association of the United States. At present it is engaged in a struggle with the Education Department of the English Government, whose conservatism is not friendly to the introduction of more enlightened scientific methods. The personal character and scholarship of the men who compose this Association must, in time, open a path for phonetic reform in the public school system. Much has already been done. The days of contempt and indifference and ridicule have passed. Various schemes are being experimented with and discussed. The question of spelling reform has become one of the living questions of the day. The last report of the American Association states that "the philologists are all in favor of reform, and no educated man, who values his reputation, cares to make active opposition." This question must now be decided on its merits. It has reached such a point that it demands a hearing, it commands respect. The platform of the Association is as follows:—

1. The existing mode of spelling the English language is a serious hindrance to education.
2. It is possible and advisable to reconstitute English spelling upon rational grounds.
3. *Such a reconstruction would rather illumine, than obscure, the history and etymology of the English language.*
4. It may be so contrived as to render existing books more accessible in their present form, and hence add considerably to their value.
5. That a reconstituted spelling would greatly abridge the time required for learning to read, both in the new and *in the present* spelling, and thus materially increase the number of readers.
6. It would thus enable much time, now wasted at school in