

for cleverness in the various school branches, but also for moral actions.

"The education of show," "cramming" the minds of children is so much more common than proper training, that it demands some earnest antidote. The process of education has been likened to an attempt to fill a narrow-necked vessel; dash water upon it, and drops enter; introduce but a limited stream, and the vessel is speedily full.

Spelling.

"Excuse the spelling; I had a bad pen," is a sentence that may at some future time be read without provoking a smile at the simplicity of the writer.

There is a movement on foot among people of philological tastes for the simplification of spelling by writing only such letters as are necessary to express the sound of the word. At the Philological Convention recently held in Philadelphia, the following resolutions were adopted. 1st—The true and sole office of alphabetical writing is faithfully and intelligibly to represent spoken speech. 2nd—The ideal of an alphabet is that every sound should have its own unvarying sign. 3rd—An alphabet intended for use by a vast community need not attempt an exhaustive analysis or color to the nicest varieties of articulation. 4th—There is no advantage in a system which aims to depict in detail the physical process of utterance. 5th—No language has ever had a perfect alphabet, and to attempt to furnish one would prove futile. 6th—To prepare the way for such a change, the first step is to break down, by the combined influence of 'eminent scholars and of practical educators, the immense and stubborn prejudice which regards the established modes of spelling almost as constituting the language, and as having a sacred character in themselves preferable to others. All cogitation and all definite proposals of reform are to be welcomed, as far as they work in this direction. 7th—An altered orthography will be unavoidably offensive to those who are called upon at first to use it, but this difficulty will be speedily overcome. 8th—The Roman alphabet is so widely and firmly established that it cannot be displaced in adapting it to improved use of English.

The following is the

REPORT OF THE SPELLING REFORM CONVENTION AT PHILADELPHIA.

(Printed phonetically with the Anglo-American Alphabet, heretofore given in the N. Y. School Journal)

Among the many good things brot us bie this sentential year is a definite promis that children ov the next jeneraishon will be releevd from the drudgery ov lerning our present unreezonable orthografy. The Internashonal Speling Reform Convension, which met at Filadelfia on the 14th ov August, waz in the opinion ov thoz hoo atended it, a gract success. Prof. S. S. Haldeman prezided, and wurdz encouraging the movement wer spoken bie men ov hie emicens in the educaishonal field, among hoom may be menshond the naims ov Jen. Eaton, Seup. Harris, and Profesorz Whitney, March, Nelson, Allen, Parker and Raddatz. Prof. Whitney sed in a letter to the Convension, that "A begining eniwhair, or ov any kiend, iz what iz moest wouted. Braik down the fals saicredness ov the present mode ov speling. Acuston the peep! not to shivor when thay see familiar wurdz misspeld, and sumthing gud wil be the fienal result."

It woz shoed from educaishonal reports that in spiet ov vigoros effort and imens outlays ov muny, illiteracy iz on the increes, boeth in England and America. J. W. Lowe, ov Norfolk, Va., maid an earnest speel on behaf ov hiz raiz, the culurd peopl, hoo, as he sed, hav no tiem to waist on lerning to spel acording tu Webster. Thay wout tu niet and thay *doe* riet, but thay *spel* bie sound.

On the therd day ov the Convension it woz resolved intu a permanent organizaishon, under the naim ov the Speling Reform Associaishon. Prof. March, ov Lafayette Colej, Easton, Pa., woz chozen Prezident, and Messrz. S. S. Haldeman, E. Jones, ov Liverpool, Eng., W. T. Harris, W. D. Whitney, Rev. C. K. Nelson and Eliza B. Burnz, Vice Prezidents. The Associaishon then arainrd for branch organizaishonz in meny ov the Staats, considerd varius fonctic alfabetz which wer presented, and orderd the report ov its proceedings tu be printed with a diegrafic alfabet, the alfabet tu be so aplyd az tu reznabl the comon print az closely az possibl. It then adjurned tu meet on the 10th ov October, at the Franklin Instituet, Filadelfia.

Deuring the cunning year the subject ov a moer perfect alfabet on the continental rouel basis wil be considerd bie this associaishon. It wil act in conjuneshon with the Alfabet Comitee ov the Am. Filological Associaishon, and the mater wil be reported on at the next meeting ov the later sciety, Jenly 10, 1877.

Editors' Note.

Teachers are requested to express their opinions on the following questions; answers will be published in next number, if received in time:

1st. Of what should a School Reading Book consist?

2nd. What is your opinion respecting the Authorized Series of Reading Books at present in use in our Common Schools of Ontario (3rd, 4th and 5th Books)?

3rd. Suggest what changes you think would be an improvement?

We invite teachers and inspectors to make free use of our columns, and will be happy to insert their contributions. Our desire is to make the COMPANION AND TEACHER a *first-class magazine*; and in order to more easily and thoroughly accomplish our object, and supply a want long felt among teachers, and around the family circle, we respectfully solicit the assistance of all friends of homo and school education.

We particularly invite the co-operation of Inspectors and Teachers throughout the Dominion. On them in a great measure depends our success, as we look to them for reports of Associations held, as well as other Educational information to be received, in their several localities.

Our arrangements having been completed with the Publishers only a few days before the date of publication, we are compelled to issue this number in a somewhat irregular form; but any defects will be remedied in future issues.

The Minister of Education, Hon. Adam Crooks, was be in St. Thomas on Friday, 20th ult. He delivered an address at the meeting of the Elgin Teachers' Association in the evening.

The Ottawa School Inspector recommends the separation of the sexes in the Central School.