

spelling,' somebody may maintain. Why are our leading philologists in favor of this movement, and why do the philological societies lead the spelling reform societies, if this were the case? The spelling of many of our words suggest false etymologies, and ignorance is crystallized in many an orthodox orthogram. By Grimm's law we can chase a word through the centuries, not only when its spelling, but its very sound, has changed. He must be a *tyro* philologist who requires such literalness in these days of etymological dictionaries; and he must be a *tyrant* philologist who would require 100,000,000 individuals to spend years, money, intellect, and morals, so that some few thousands might be able to enjoy the fancy, that from a given spelling they could trace out the origin of a word, if not its etymological history, without referring to a dictionary.

"9. If the tracing of words to their originals, such as from modern English to middle English, and from middle English to Norman French, and from Norman French to Latin, be a valuable and enjoyable recreation, as undoubtedly it is, the phonetic reform would make the exercise more valuable by adding another link to the spell-binding chain of changes,—the change from antique to modern English.

"10. The difficulties of our present spelling are such as to engender dislike to school work on the part of a very large number of our pupils, and thus tends to perpetuate illiteracy, truancy, and bad conduct generally.

"11. As the acquiring of a perfect knowledge of English orthography is to the youthful pupil essentially *cram*, it has all the mischievous intellectual effects of that notorious system of instruction.

"12. In addition to the other evils of our present system, there is at least the equivalent of a loss of two years' work in our schools. And the English child is handicapped to that extent as compared with children of races having a phonetic alphabet.

"13. Phonetic reform would, therefore, give us the equivalent of two years more for our common school work, which time could be utilized in a more thorough and extensive language culture, and in a more complete training in scientific observation and induction, instead of simply in silent letter culture.

"14. It would shorten our written and printed language by about *one-sixth*, so that the morning paper, which costs us now six dollars a year, could be had for five. Of the millions spent annually in books, periodicals, paper, pens, and ink, one-sixth would be saved. One-sixth of the time spent in writing, and

much of the time spent in turning up the dictionary, would be pure gain. Why, it is the true *national policy*.

"15. It would also tend to uproot dialects and provincialisms—1st, by making the correct dialect more easy of acquisition, and, 2nd, by assisting in the growth of a uniform pronunciation.

"16. A phonetic system, widely approved, having the powers of the letters more like their original powers in English, and therefore more closely approximating those of European nations at present, would give uniformity to the school pronunciations of Latin and Greek.

"17. The same system would enable any one who could read Anglo-Saxon, Latin, French, German, etc., to read and spell English with no effort beyond acquiring the accent.

"18. A phonetic system would also facilitate the acquisition of English by foreigners, and, as the language would then be the most concise of European languages, it would have advantages for telegraphic, commercial, and other correspondence. It would undoubtedly tend to the ultimate universality of the English language.

"19. It would facilitate the introduction of Christianity and English civilization among other nations and peoples.

"20. In a word: This reform would make school life more happy and moral, school work more useful and extensive, literary products and efforts less expensive, and therefore university learning more advanced and profound. And in the great rivalry of European and Asiatic powers, which is becoming keener and keener from year to year, it would give the English races the critical preponderance, as admitted by Grimm, which would determine the ultimate universality of their language, and their supremacy in literature, science, and philosophy, as well as in commerce, adventure and arms."

YOUNG LADIES' SEMINARY.

With pleasure we call attention to Mrs. Dashwood's advertisement on second page of cover, and to the advantages which this excellent institution affords of receiving a thorough educational training, and the benefits of social culture. The Seminary is delightfully situated in the south end of the city, in the immediate vicinity of Fort Massey and St. Andrew's Presbyterian Churches, and both by its course of instruction and elegant appointments, as well as the association of talent and refinement that forms one of its prominent features, possesses the requisite elements for imparting to young