

United States Congress, signed by forty-six American professors.

Prof. Max Müller is an enthusiastic advocate of reform. He calls our present system "the unhistorical, unsystematic, unintelligible, unteachable, and by no means unamendable spelling now current in England." When none of our educated men are perfect in spelling and pronunciation, when no Englishman can tell how to spell a word he has never seen, nor how to pronounce a word he has never heard, when in Civil Service Examinations out of 1,972 failures 1,861 were due to bad spelling, it is no wonder he asks, "Can this unsystematic system of spelling English be allowed to go on forever? Is every English child, as compared with other children, to be mulcted in two or three years of his life in order to learn it? Are the lower classes to go through school without learning to read and write their own language intelligently? And is the country to pay millions every year for this utter failure of national education?" The period, in which children learn to read and spell, is the period in which some of the most vivid and lasting mental impressions are received, yet this period is worse than wasted. The child is led through a labyrinth of confusion, which not only staggers and benumbs the young intellect, but shuts out a large amount of useful knowledge and healthful, intellectual stimulation, which might make these years of incalculable educational value. While the English child is learning to read, "the German child studies mathematics, classics and literature." The great problem of educating the masses demands this reform for its solution. If education is to remain an aristocratic luxury, let things remain as they are, but if the rich are debtors to the poor, and the highly favored to the unblest, let those who have this greatest earthly boon, the ability to read, put it within the reach of the humblest clay capable of intellectual illumination. Open the way for the millions.

To cling to our present method is as absurd as clinging to the clumsy £ s. d. instead of the decimal system. No one thinks of