THE ABUSE OF ENGLISH.

An Occupation in Which More Than Press Writers Engage.

THE STUDY OF LITERARY STYLE.

Authors for Students' Reading-Examples of Everyday Errors.

Authors and tutors occasionally indulge in criticism of what they are pleased to call "Newspaper English," having reference, of course, to the frequency with which writers for the daily press furnish examples of etymological and syntactical errors, and none will more promptly and penitently cry peccavi than the writer for the daily press, whose manuscript is frequently prepared under circumstances and conditions which render any near approach to perfection impossible, and which subordinate elegance of style and etymological exactness to rapidity and brevity. But admitting all that is charged against are guilty of the literary offence of referring the work of the writers for the daily press, can it be said that their censors are as a the English of the average novelist or boused than "splendid." I meet with it chimneys. Tennant & Co. have one magazine writer, who with ample leisure everywhere. It is a "splendid" day; the prepares his copy and revises and re-revises his proofs, so perfect as to be invulnerable to critical assaults? Are even our standard English classics so free from gross blunders playing, a lady in "splendid" voice, a as to elevate their authors to a plane of literary infallibility? Few who have and a ball fielder who makes "splendid" studied them carefully will make such a catches. "Splendid" is a good word, ap-

FEW MASTERS OF ENGLISH.

With all our boasted educational facilities we have few masters of English composition and literary style. A French writer, quoted by Colton, has said truly: "To acquire a few tongues is the task of a few years; but to be eloquent in one is the labor of a life." Only a few years of the average man's life can, in the nature of things, be devoted to school, and when his efforts and energies are divided up and, as in too many cases, frittered away in acquiring a smattering of two or three other languages, it is scarcely to be wondered why our youths have such a superficial acquaintance with their mother tongue. But that study need not and should not come to a period with our school days. It should continue through life. The critical habit should be encouraged and cultivated. Our reading should be thoughtfully done, even if we do less of it. The great lack of the age is lack of thought. We may read omniverously without deriving much benefit therefrom; it is what we comprehend analytically, what we assimilate, that benefits us. Perhaps if we read less and thought more we would be a wiser people.

THE ACQUISITION OF LITERARY STYLE. Literary style is an acquired art, and the context leaves no doubt that "obvious" acquirable only in a high degree where or "evident" as opposed to "seeming" there is a natural aptitude. But the worst was meant. "Evidence," too, is used course of thoughtful reading of the best chosen, and many persons speak of being people in the Southern States, and with of literary style may be improved by a authors. No young man or woman can "aggravated" when they are simply fail to derive benefit from devoting his or her winter evenings to a careful and normal condition was bad. To "aggravate" thoughtful study of Mr. Herbert Spencar's is to make worse or less tolerable. "Literary Style," Mathews' "Words, "Restive" is frequently used when it is de-Their Use and Abuse," Trench "On the sired to express the very opposite condition Study of Words," and kindred works, supplemented by the reading of a few good English classics. If the object of acquiring the facility of putting similar thoughts into similarly elegant sentences be kept in view the author's style will in a greater or less degree become that of the student. Would you familiarize yourself with elaborate and exhaustive sentences, whose propositions are each a rapier of logical attack and defence, and whose central idea is as a fortified city? Read Locke. Would you cultivate the sledge hammer style in which the pent-up feelings find utterance in spasmodic and ejaculatory phrases overflowing with soul and energy Read the works of that prince of iconoclastic invective and detester of shams and pretences, Cartyle. Would you culti. vate the expression of great thoughts in few and unimposing words yet with the pathos and power which thrills and conquers? Read Shakspeare, Burns, Martin Tupper. Do you admire smooth, incisive, epigrammatic sentences in which each word is a thought and each indispensable? Read Emerson. Are you an admirer of that perspicuity of style, syntactical arrangement of words and grouping of thoughts which give point to wit and polish and force to argument? Read Spencer, Whately, Paley, Huxley, Max Muller, Burke, Mill, Newton. Do you love narrative? Read the histories of Knight, Macaulay, Hume, Guizot, Green, Parkman, Bancroft. And in your reading pass no word of the significance of which in the relation in which it is employed you are doubtful. Mark the power which a discriminating use of language gives an author. Test words by the substitution of what you may have supposed to be synomyms reconstruct the sentences and note the gain or loss of power and point, and you will not fail to discover that in the vast you will not full to discover that in the vast since " when you mean "a year ago." majority of cases there is always one best "View of " and "view to" are and most expressive word, one most pungent frequently misplaced. I may obtain an third. and effective style.

daily press are not in any sense peculiar to air and exercise. "Should" and "would" many of their censors were published with- devoted to them. The "ought" idea atout the kind supervision of editor and taches to the former and that of determinaproofreader their authors' title to models tion, volition, desire, to the latter. Do not of esymological and syntactical perfection use "stop" when you mean "stay," or would not be worth five minutes' purchase, "stopping" for "staying," "except" for would not be worth five minutes' purchase, while such trivial matters as punctuation, capitalization and paragraphing would "folk." seem to have been altogether too insignifi- expressive cant to engage their attention. It has failen and effects or consequences. to my lot to handle a good deal of copy man who writing of a case of suicide from severe and caustic critics of "news- by morphia said: "The somnolent effects paper English," and little of it there was of the narcotic became early apparent," that did not run deeply in debt to editorial probably meant to refer to the soporofic feet lung. Good Samaritanism.

acquired save by careful and continued the word "whole" when you mean "all," study and practice, there are many com- and do not say a speaker "alluded" to mon errors in the use of words which might some subject to which he referred directly Thirty minutes, and no longer, he devotes be corrected without the expenditure of and at length. much effort. They are in many cases the The field is large, and I might multiply result of unconscious imitation; in some examples of common errors in the use of nothing else at hand he steps into they arise from a misunderstanding of words and write volumes on literary style. his pulpit on Sunday morning without certain words misapplied. In almost every The study is one that will amply recom- manuscript or thought of his text case to direct the attention of the writer to pense the student, and none who aspire to other than that given it during the half-

cation of the word in his mind is to prevent its repetition.

EXAMPLES OF COMMON ERRORS Words like "either," "neither," "be twixt," " between," " whether," " alternative," etc., are frequently misused. Many applicable only in speaking of two subjects. 'Either of the three " would be grossly incorrect, but not more so than to speak of "a race between three horses," or "a battle betwixt five swordsmen," or "three alternatives." "Between" applies properly to only two parties, while "among" denotes a mass or collection of things and always supposes more than two. You do not divide an apple "among" two persons, but "between "them; prize money is not divided 'between" a crew but "among" them. "Either" and "neither" also apply only to one of two things or groups, yet frequently both in speaking and writing they are misused. In their pronunciation, too, these words give rise to differences of opinion, although of "either" Webster says. "Analogy, as well as the best and most general usage is decidedly in favor of ether." "Alternative" denotes a choice restricted to one of two things, yet some to three proposed lines of action as "three alternatives"! Perhaps no word in the language is more indiscriminately used and speaker was "splendid"; the wine at the banquet was "splendid"; he is in "splendid" health; I hear of "splendid" piano 'splendid' menu, a "splendid" horse race, ppropriate and expressive in certain relations, but there is a limit to its applicability which is very frequently exceeded. 'Mutual" is another much abused word, even by writers like Pope and Dickens. It is in meaning "reciprocal," and implies an interchange of the thing referred to; hence it is quite proper to speak of "mutual" friendship, whereas "our mutual friend" is a palpable absurdity which even the authority of Dickens cannot justify. 'Partially," which is properly the opposite of "impartially," is now frequently employed where "partly" is meant, and in such sense has obtained a measure of recognition; but there is no excuse for its

'salesladies' and "salesgents" who wait on "persons" who go shopping. "Apparent" is another word that is much abused. It is often employed when where "testimony" should be the word "irritated," an error, of course, unless their and when "restless" should be employed. 'Less' is very commonly, but erroneously. substituted for "fewer," and vice versa and "quantity" and "number" are confounded. To speak of property "appreciating" in value is to use an Americanism, but one which has now obtained general currency. "Anticipate" is sometimes erroneously used as a synonym for "expect" or "hope." It means "to take beforehand," and indicates a foretasting, foreseeing, taking into the mind a conception of the future. Although interchangeable in some situations it is not synonymous with "expect," which is generally the stronger word. "Plead" for pleaded" is in inexcusably bad taste. Fuil complement" is a common tautological blunder and is equivalent to saying a

highflying writers, too, never allow a per-

son to eat his dinner; he must "partake

the same, regardless of the plain meaning

of the words. I have a suspicion that "partaker" is also responsible for the

round circle,' a "three cornered triangle." THE BEST WRITERS ERR.

"But that" and "but what" used for that" are found in the works of writers of some note. Even Trench says: He never doubts but that he knows their intention.' The "but" is just as useless as the buttons on the back of the waist of a man's coat, and much less ornamental. pression and in nine out of ten cases the got" is a superfluity. "Further" and 'farther' are often migused. It should be borne in mind that if you cannot follow a friend "further" in an argument you may be able to see him "farther" on his journey homeward. A like discrimination is to be observed in the use of the word "differ." I may "differ with" my friend on a hunt up a job and earn enough to pay your matter of opinion, yet "differ from "him in complexion, stature, etc., with perfect propriety. "A couple of weeks ago," is neither as good English nor as brief as "two weel ago." Do not say "a year excellent "view of" the city from the The errors common to writers for the steep with a "view to" enjoying the fresh Indeed if the contributions of demand more space than can here be 'unless," or "folks" when you mean Distinguish between words of actions or causes The ffects of the drug producing somnolence. But while literary style cannot be But he was beyond his depth. Do not use

the error is to correct it; to fix the signifi- success in any literary pursuit can afford to hour's study of the previous evening.

neglect it. Max Muller says: " Language and thought are inseparable. To think is to speak low; to speak is to think aloud. The word is the thought incarnate." Coke says: "Syllables govern the world." Southey says: "It is with words as with sunbeams—the more they are condensed writers lose sight of the fact that they are the deeper they burn." Locke says: "If a nature has directed. But no sooner do we gentleman be to study language at all it put the same animal into harness than we miles beyond the great pyramids. I had should be that of his own country." In think ourselves bound to fasten a black these days of colloquialisms, slang and leather flap over each of his eyes, so as to literary rubbish, no more profitable study prevent him from seeing objects at his than that of literary style, the expression of thought concisely and incisively in pure are in his immediate front. This is done sand moving swiftly over the undulating English, the subtle distinctions in words, with the very best intentions, the object plain. The centre one of these was vertican be recommended to young people.

MASQUETTE.

Tall Chimneys,

The tallest chimney in the United States though, is claimed by Kearney, near Newark, N. J., it being 335 feet high, 28 feet in diameter at the base, and containing not less than 1,697,000 bricks. A writer in the Boston Globe states, however, that enormous as some of the American smoke shafts are, they are but pigmies beside those in the "Old Country." Scotch and English chimneys, it seems, are famous for their cloud-reaching peculiarities. At the Dobson & Barlow mills, Bolton, England, there is an octagon stack, 3691 feet in height and over 33 feet in diameter at the base. Glasgow, Scotland, is famous for its tall which runs up 4551 feet, with a base of thirty feet, while the great Townshend stack, in the same city, towers 468 feet into the air from the foundation, with a big base measuring 32 feet in diameter. This is generally spoken of as the tallest chimney in the world, although the men of Paisley declare that they have one 500 feet high. In Halifax, England, there is an octagon tower rising 381 feet, with a base of 30 feet, and weighing 10,000 tons. In Bradford there is a stone shaft rising 300 feet above the ground, being nine feet at the summit. At the shell foundry of Woolwich Arsenal there is a chimney 223 feet above the ground and 16 feet below it, with a Portland stone cap weighing seventeen tons. The West Cumberland Iron Works have one 251 feet high, and at the Dandee Linen Works there is one rising 282 feet from the ground. At the Edinburgh gas works there is one rising 341 feet into the air, and Haddersfield has a circular shaft of 321 feet. In France the substitution for "partly" as expressive of tallest smokestacks are built of iron, the in part, in some measure or degree. Some most notable being two at the Crusot works, ore being 197 feet high, and the other 279 feet. Liverpool, too, has one of it; and it matters not whether he eats cloud toucher in the shape of a chimney at as one of a company or alone, whether he Musprat's works 406 feet high. takes part of what is set before him or clears the table, they make him "partake" just

Taken by themselves, these altitudes do not perhaps, convey any very striking ideal to the reader, but when placed in comparison with the height of other structures it will be seen that they rank among the highest constructions of the

world.

An Anglo-Saxon South. The New Orleans Times-Democrat corrects a statement in the Record ascribing a Opinion. Latin origin to a majority of the white some asperity professes its astonishment that "a paper of the standing of the Record should be so far off." By way of comment the Times-Democrat makes some interesting observations which are worth reprinting. It says: There is some French blood in Louisiana and some little Latin blood in South Carolina, Florida and Texas, but, with the exception of Louisiana, this Latin element forms an infinitesimal portion of the white population. New England with its large French Canadian population, is infinitely more Latin to-day than any Southern State, with this single exception. As a matter of fact, the South is now the most Anglo-Saxon alliances many obstacles obstacles portion of the country, the English element which, if not insurmountable, are being infinitely larger in Virginia, the two Carolinas and Georgia, than anywhere north of the line, where the large immigration of late years has completely changed the character of the population. New England, originally nearly pure English, has altogether changed in the last forty years. To-day Boston is essentially an lrish city, while the French Canadian influence already predominates in many manufacturing towns, and is growing stronger. Only a short time ago one of the most prominent New Englanders, traveling in the South, was somewhat surprised to find the people so purely Anglo-Saxon in race, and came rightly to the conclusion that the original Americans, the descendants of the men who founded and "I have got" so and so is a common ex- established this Republic, were to be found to-day unmixed with any other race in this portion of the country.-Philadelphia Record.

The Open Season. College graduate—When does the hunting season open, father?

Hard headead father-Right away, my son. You had better start out to-day and

Dyed to Die.

Laura-How beautifully Miss Van Geant, the tragedienne, dies. Jack-Yes, I noticed that her hair was vellow in the second act and red in the

-" I hear sugar trust certificates are very unsteady." drop too much." "Yes, they've taken a

Speaking before a meeting of Methodist ministers, Bishop Fowler told of a new heathen temple in the northern part of Japan, It was of enormous size, and the timbers for the temple from their mountain homes were hauled up to the temple and put in place by ropes made from the hair of the women of the province. An edica went forth calling for the long hair of the women of the province, and two ropes were made from these tresses—one 17 inches in circumferences and 1,400 feet long, and the other 10 to 11 inches around and 2,600

Spurgeon, the eminent Baptist preacher, never makes any preparation for a sermon. It is his habit to choose some text Saturday evening to be used on the morrow. to looking up references. On these references he jots down a few notes, and with

ARR BLINKERS HURTFUL ?

ns Why They Harm Instead of Benefit Horses That Wear Them. When a horse is used for the saddle no

one thinks of meddling with his eyes, and

we allow the animal to use them freely, as

sides, and to limit his view to those which being to save him from being frightened by oal, and those surrounding it at a distance startling and unwonted sights, and only to of 200 or 300 yards leaned slightly toward especially when large and brought near the eyes, it has the effect of heating them and hindering the free passage of air over them. In the next place, it causes the eyes to be always directed forward, and thus produces a most injurious strain on the delicate muscles. We know how painful a sensation is felt when we are obliged to strain our eyes either backward or upward any length of time, and the horse suffers no less inconvenience when it is forced to keep its eyes continually strained forward.

The worst example of the blinkers that I have ever seen was in the United States, where the blinkers (or "blinders" as they are there named) are often brought so closely together in front by means of a strap and a buckle that a mere narrow strip barely half an inch in width is left for vision. This again is done with the best intentions, the object being to save the animal from being afflicted with snow blindness. Now the horse's eyes are in many respects different from our own, and are not affected, as is the case with ours, by the vast expanses of dazzling snow which are rendered even more dazzling by the clear atmosphere and brilliant sunshine of America. One of its safeguards lies in the remarkable structure which is properly termed the "haw," and scientifically the "nictitating mem brane." This is a sort of a third eyelid set beneath the true eyelids, and capable of being drawn at will over the eyeball, thus the burning, almost suffocating, hot air performing the double duty of shielding which accompanies the "zobahahs." the eye from the direct glare of light and clearing the surface from dust and any the arc of a wide circle, and the direction other foreign substance. This membrane of the centre of the circle is almost inis seen in perfection in the birds of prey, variably from south to north. so that the proverbial statement that the eagle trains itself to gaze at the midday

The Friendship of Men.

If you want a friend who is beyond the reach of envy, of mistrust, of infidelity, of all those sordid influences which mar and break the friendly tie, you will not find him in the flesh and blood. I write "him" advisedly, because friendships of the platonic kind, in which the opposite sex forms a party to the contract, are not lastcally, platonic love, were possible it would be a delightful relaxation for the highly cultured of both sexes. But because it is so pleasant and might allure some from the duty they owe to nature, this jealous dame has placed in the way of such sufficient to defeat the realization of the plans. Platonic ties of this kind are either merged into downright affection or else they founder on some other rock that lies in the channel of our lives. There is much of the idol in platonic friendships. but it is too fine metal to wear well. The best friendships are that between man and man-such as the friendly bonds that encircled Damon and Pythias, Achilles and Patroclus, David and Jonathan, Orestes and Pylades, Pyrodes and Musidorus. When men become friends in earnest there are some lasting qualities in the tie. Such friendships between women are very rare. But even in the case of manly affection one for another there are circumstances in which the tie could and would be ruthlessly broken .- Detroit Free Press.

An Unkind Cut. Miss Sere-I suppose you have heard that Mr. Short has proposed. Miss Fresh—Indeed?

Miss S .- Yes. Now I wonder if it is my money he is after? Miss F.-What else can it be?

A Sure Sign.

Two blind men are on a train. Suddely loud smacks are heard all over

the car. "There," said one to the other, "that's the fourth tunnel we have passed through to-day."

Where He Stamped. "You seem at home here," remarked a

man at the post-office to the Postmaster. "Yes," replied the latter, "this my stamping ground."

-A smooth talker doesn't always tell the plain truth.

YE COLLEGE GRADUATE. He can trace the radius vector

With a geometric sector,
And can give the moon's diameter in feet He can analyze the arum, Classify the coptic carum : But he cannot tell a cabbage from a beet.

-There is always a job around here for the man who laughs. -When a man "gives himself away

he naturally loses his self-possession. LISTEN, YOUNG MAN.

He that courts and goes away May live to court another day; But he that weds and courts girls still error of his weigh.

t, but otherwise 't ain't hurt any."

A STORM ON THE DESERT.

Wild Scenes on the Great Sahara in Africa

(New York Mail and Express.) Under the fairest skies the desert is an awesome solitude, but when a storne comes it is terrible and appalling. I shall never forget a scene I witnessed some forty gained an isolated hillock, some 200 feets above the level of the surrounding desert. Away to the west, about two miles distant, I descried six or seven lofty pillars of

leave a sufficiency of vision wherewith to it. The sand at the base of the columns guide his steps. Herein, as in feeding and was lashed by the furious whirlwind into stabling the horse, man judges the animal surging sea. Desert trees of the hardest by himself, forgetting, or rather having failed notice, that the eyes of the horse hurled hundred of yards away and high up are exceedingly unlike our own. Our eyes into the air; even the grass that grew in are set in the front of our heads, so that the path of that terrible storm was shorm if blinkers were fastened to our tem- clear away from its roots. The summits ples our range of vision would be but of those columns of sand at length joined slightly limited. But the eyes of the and then burst forth from their united tops horse are placed on the sides of the head, a yellow gigantic cloud of sand of such and are rather prominent, so that the magnitude and density as to darken, as in animal cannot only see on either side, but a total eclipse, the face of the bright afterby rolling his eyes backwards, as we see in noon sun. The sand spout, called by the a vicious horse, can see objects almost in natives "zobahah," shortly after subsided his immediate rear. The effect of the but the cloud of sand and grass, which had blinker is both physically and mentally been raised high in the heavens, continued injurious to the horse. In the first place, to darken the setting sun for more than another hour. The smaller column behind travaled swiftly, increasing in size, until it reached the site of the break up of the other, and then added its mite to the universal destruction.

With my sextant, as I stood in security, measured the height of the centre column of sand: it was nearly 1,000 feet. The other columns were rising so rapidly that they soon reached a height greater tham that of the centre column. When the junction of them all took place the suddem eruption of sand, leaves and grass reached to a total height of over 4,000 feet. These 'zobahaha'' are not very frequent, bus when they occur they carry widespread devastation along with them, and woe betide the traveller and the tent that happen to stand in their way. Not more than ten yards from the column the air is perfectly calm, but within the small circumscribing circle there rages such a tempest as will carry away anything, however firmly fixed in the ground, into the regions of the upper air as easily as an ordinary gust of wind will blow a piece of paper. The camel, this wonderful ship of the desert, always knows a few hours before whether one of those approaching "zobahahs" is likely to come upon him, and his natural instinct will guide him to a place of safety, where he lies down and only breathes the cool, reactive current which closely follows usual movement of these sand spouts is in

When these awful turmoils are over, and the disturbing elements have resumed their sun has some foundation in fact.—Public normal state, the burning sand becomes saturated with a heavy dew, the sun is less able to life in both men and beasts. Nature's wisdom and wonders are indeed beyond man's limited understanding.

They Need Nerve.

" Engineers at rest, sitting in the narrow cabs of their engines, lying at the depot waiting for the signal to start, often look to be a sleepy set of fellows," said the man the other night who runs the limited to Alliance. "Do you know," he continued, addressing a reporter, " that engineers are always wide awake when they seem to be indifferent to events happening around them? There are few things that escape their vigilant eyes. Many people have an idea that engineers 'go it blind' and trust entirely to the block system and the acuteness of good telegraph operators, but if they did this there would be wrecks and lives lost every day.

"A good engineer is always on the lookout. We see plenty of things ahead of us that harrow our nerves and make the hair stand up straight, but as long as the passengers behind us don't know it, and we all escape uninjured, we heave a sigh of relief and say nothing. I tell you, it is no easy matter to hold a throttle, shoot around sharp curves and watch for obstructions. An enginear looks down for a moment at the connecting rods of the locomotive, moving backward and forward with lightning-like rapidity. He doesn't know at what minute a pin may break and one of the rods knock his brains out as he leans out of the cab.

"We have to make schedule time; the road is full of curves, and we are likely to bang into these trains as we pass them. Little do people know how rasping it is on the nerves to be continually making narrow escapes, and yet one invariably feels that some day he is bound to 'get it in the neck.' It is the uncertainty of the business that is so trying."—Pittsburg Dispatch.

On the Eiffel Tower. Mother and the girls, ecstatically-My;

isn't it high? Popper, in a gloom that reaches to the base of the tower - Well, what of it? Have you seen anything in Paris this summer that wasn't high?

It is officially stated that the almost futile campaign conducted by Italy in Abyssinia cost King Humbert's Government upwards of 20,000,000 francs.

Seventy houses were burned in the village of Stettin, near Wuerzburg yesterday. Many persons were injured and a large number are homeless.

At Gen. Boulanger's request, MM. Deroulede and Naquet have abandoned their proposed visit to Jersey. This indicates that the General desires to drop the agitation.

The steamer La Bourgogne, which are rived yesterday at New York, brought Millet's picture, "Angelus," recently purchased for the American Art Association for \$100,-000.

M. Spuller, Minister of Foreign Affairs. unveiled a monument at Epinouse to-day in memory of Gambetta's escape from -It is hard to make the ice man see the Paris in a balloon during the Prussian. seige.

Prince Dolgouriki, who yesterday at-Mrs. Pancake, to tramp—" Well, what do you want?" Tramp—" Here, mum, is billed in war, with the chiect of making the der pie I stold off yer window yesterday. killed in war, with the object of making the There may be two or three teeth stickin' in ceremony a Russian demonstration, has fled to Belgrade.

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