

THE EVENING NEWS.

Tuesday, December 29, 1970

THE GROWTH OF SLANG.

The growth of slang means the decay of language; the admission of a non-estimation which disregards propriety and fixes upon objects irrational and inconsistent names, is at once a nuisance and a vice, and persistence in it means the inevitable debasing of the mother tongue, a course which scholars of all ages have endeavored to check, while their efforts were strenuously directed to refine, elevate, and improve. There has been a growing tendency to incorporate into our already too barbarous and incongruous language a flood of cant terms, American colloquialisms, Gallicisms, sham classicisms, professional idioms, Ultramontanisms, and a general deluge of illiterate slang. All this shows want, not excess, of fertility, and degeneration rather than extension. England being an adaptive nation, learns and finds a home for new-fangled expressions of all sorts, shielding herself when attacked on the point with the excuse that they are not of her own manufacture; but the passer of bad coin is every whit as guilty as the coiner, and England is as ready to endorse the vulgar vocabulary as to invent slang for herself. Slang is of very modern date. There was much homeliness and no little coarseness in some of the sayings of the famous writers, and perhaps more facetiousness and significance amongst our great humorists than will be found now-a-days; but we see little or no tendency to slang. Even in the famous highwayman's opera, Gay, who should have known his subject, gives us nothing in the conversation of his lowest characters which requires a glossary; while Dean Swift, had such a commodity as slang existed, would never have omitted to garnish his words with it for the good of posterity. Dictionaries of slang have been published since his day, and the latest publication, founded on Grose's famous book, has attained to goodly dimensions; for slang is on the increase, and no stand has been made against it, because everybody, from the highest to the lowest, cultivates and speaks it.

Words which are not to be found in any standard dictionary, and which are unauthorized by grammatical or literary precedent, are slang, and such words are used throughout the length and breadth of the land by all degrees of men indiscriminately. The use of vulgar equivalents distinguishes all Englishmen, and it would weary our readers, and certainly not enlighten them, were we to treat them to a complete list corrected up to date, of the synonyms for some of the generic words in common use. For money alone there are seventeen equivalents, without counting the slang terms applied to the various species of coins, of the different expressions used to signify the being rich or poor. As might be expected in England, the symptoms for drunkenness are plentiful, amounting to no less than thirty-two; and for one article of drink, fruitful in producing these names, namely "gin," we have ten different equivalents. Man is liable to be called a cove, a chap, a cull, an article, a coddler, a buffer, a "party," and according to his grade he has some fifty subdivisions; according to his profession some eighty or more. In the ocean, mere casualties enumerated from memory, and without the least attempt at any exhaustive list; possibly with better knowledge, we might augment the list by double the amount. Slang, however, is not confined to low language; it is not alone in its "argot," fashion; has its vulgarity, and a good deal of it too—as unmeaning gibberish as anything that we have given hitherto, the greatest test of the fashionable slang being that it is made up of the construed French idioms, which in the English garb are sheer nonsense. Witness a wedding "on the tapis," which is rubbish; the *deca deca*, which is rigmarole; a *chaperon*, which is foolishness to say nothing of the meaningless frivolities of such words as *four per*, *revelation*, *recherche*, and a hundred other words falsely applied.

As to fashionable pronunciations which in themselves mean "slang," we take no cognizance of them; they are fleeting material, and change their aspect every day. Criticism has its special slang, which is vastly offensive, as being born of emptiness, and, accordingly, a few technical terms constitute the stock in trade of every artist in England, and fellowship is the key-note of praise or blame. Thus, through all stations of society runs the jargon of slang. Let our readers for a moment conceive the difficulty which presents itself to a foreigner when he encounters a master of slang; what tribulation, what uncertainty besets the unhappy stranger. If the object of his inquiry is a politician, he is enlightened to this effect: "He is a *big game* thing altogether. Merry people is an out-and-out swindle, and wanted to be a *blarney* Dull, who isn't such a flat as he looks; so, dodging the Premier's gammon, he stowed the question; and though he looked green, did the fellow frown on his own dodge—all which must be vastly instructive to the foreign politician. What hope has a resident Frenchman to accomplish the difficulty of our language? While he is mastering one idiom, another and another has appeared to his utter discomfiture, and he finds himself fighting against a strongly running tide of slang, which keeps him in a condition of the most hopeless perplexity. Is there a reason for this? Should this be? Idleness, some might use a recognized vocabulary, invent one which is spurious; idleness, double disarmed, imitates this; and so, according to the space left by weakness, does the vice gain ground. Ignorance, too, slang, because ignorance copulates idleness, which is the parent of slang. —Court Circular.

COMMISSION HAT HOUSE.
MEN'S BOYS AND CHILDREN'S
FUR AND WOOL HATS
By the Chief Manufacturer of the
BUFFALO, WOLF AND ALASKA ROBES.

SAMUEL SHETHAR & CO.,
545, Broadway, NEW YORK.
d19-1y

JAMES HAGUE,

EAST TEMPLE STREET



HAS always a first-class supply of Guns, Pistols, Bullets, Shot, Fishing Tackle and everything else in that line.
Also Saddles, Bridles, Whips, Spurs, Harness Trimmings and a Large assortment of Locks, and House Trimmings. Sign of the **BIG GUN**.
d210 6m

C. H. BASSETT. G. F. HOFFMAN.

BASSETT & HOFFMAN, NEW HARDWARE STORE.

ALL KINDS OF
Heavy Hardware,
Iron and Steel,
Stoves and Tinware,
Blacksmith Tools,
Agricultural Implements
AT LOW RATES!
Opposite Salt Lake House.
d3 1f

Z. C. M. I. RETAIL

GROCERY AND HARDWARE DEPARTMENT!

Eldredge & Clawson Building.

JUST RECEIVED, A LARGE ASSORTMENT OF

LAMPS,

Very Cheap; a Full Assortment of Henry Diction & Sons.

CIRCULAR SAWS.

Supplied with the best of materials, and made to order. For money alone there are seventeen equivalents, without counting the slang terms applied to the various species of coins, of the different expressions used to signify the being rich or poor. As might be expected in England, the symptoms for drunkenness are plentiful, amounting to no less than thirty-two; and for one article of drink, fruitful in producing these names, namely "gin," we have ten different equivalents. Man is liable to be called a cove, a chap, a cull, an article, a coddler, a buffer, a "party," and according to his grade he has some fifty subdivisions; according to his profession some eighty or more. In the ocean, mere casualties enumerated from memory, and without the least attempt at any exhaustive list; possibly with better knowledge, we might augment the list by double the amount. Slang, however, is not confined to low language; it is not alone in its "argot," fashion; has its vulgarity, and a good deal of it too—as unmeaning gibberish as anything that we have given hitherto, the greatest test of the fashionable slang being that it is made up of the construed French idioms, which in the English garb are sheer nonsense. Witness a wedding "on the tapis," which is rubbish; the *deca deca*, which is rigmarole; a *chaperon*, which is foolishness to say nothing of the meaningless frivolities of such words as *four per*, *revelation*, *recherche*, and a hundred other words falsely applied.

H. R. CLAWSON, Supt.

A. MINER,

ATTORNEY & COUNSELOR.

Office at residence, 2d South St.

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH.

All kinds of legal business promptly attended to.

d281 1f

MUSEUM & MENAGERIE

Half Block East DESSERT News Office.

Proprietor, JOHN W. YOUNG.

THE Tourist may see the Minerals and the Natural Productions of Utah at a glance. The Wild Beasts, Birds and Reptiles of the Rocky Mountains: Wolverines, Wild Cats, Lynxes, Eagles, Serpents, etc., Indian Dresses, Tomahawks, Scalps, etc., Pottery, Hair, Chees, Medicine Balls and Curiosities from the Ancient Indian Mounds. Fossils: the Mammoth, Crocodiles, Corals, etc.

Admission 50 cents. Open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

d287 1f

J. J. RABBIT,

Manager.

M. Kirkpatrick, S. A. Mann,

KIRKPATRICK and MANN,

Attorneys at Law.

Office 1st South Temple Street, 4 Doors East of Hooper, Eldredge & Co's, Bank.

d271 1f

d271 1f

d271 1f

d271 1f

d271 1f

d271 1f

d271 1f

d271 1f

d271 1f

d271 1f

d271 1f

d271 1f

d271 1f

d271 1f

d271 1f

d271 1f

d271 1f

d271 1f

d271 1f

d271 1f

d271 1f

d271 1f

d271 1f

d271 1f

d271 1f

d271 1f

d271 1f

d271 1f

d271 1f

d271 1f

d271 1f

d271 1f

d271 1f

d271 1f

d271 1f

d271 1f

d271 1f

d271 1f

d271 1f

d271 1f

d271 1f

d271 1f

d271 1f

d271 1f

d271 1f

d271 1f

d271 1f

d271 1f

d271 1f

d271 1f

ST. LOUIS TRADE.

J. R. LIGGETT, Registered Factory, ST. LOUIS, MO.

LIGGETT & DAUSMAN,

CHEVING TOBACCO

And dealers in all kinds of

Tobacco and Cigars.

37 and 39 Second St., ST. LOUIS, Mo.

Established 1830. d153 1y

B. A. HICKMAN & Co.,

Manufacturers of

Trunks, Valises and Carpet Bags

Also Ladies' and Gents' Morocco and Leather

Traveling Satchels, Wholesale and Retail.

Sale Rooms: 302 & 305 N. Third Street,

near Post Office, ST. LOUIS, Mo.

d37 3m

THE CELEBRATED

COOKING STOVES!

For Wood.

They are really what their name indicates,

SUPERIOR to any other Stove in the market,

Economy, Durability, Convenience & Dispatch

Are Unequaled!

KANSAS, ALASKA

AND

IMPROVED AMERICAN

For Coal.

Which for neatness of design, thoroughness of construction, economy of fuel, and uniformity of operation, place them at the best Stoves in the market.

They have been constructed especially for the use of our Western Steamboats, for which all stoves of Eastern manufacture are so ill adapted. Enlarged Flues insure a perfect draft; the plates that line the fire chamber are unusually heavy, and combine certain peculiarities in their construction which give these stoves superiority over all others in the consumption of its smoke, thus saving a large percentage of fuel.

Bridge, Beach & Co.,

ST. LOUIS.

Deal in Metals!

Up Stairs, - St. Louis, Mo.

d282 6m

RAYMOND & TORWECCE,

Silk, Fur and Cashmere

HAT MANUFACTURERS,

No. 327 NORTH THIRD ST.,

St. Louis, Mo.

d282 6m

Up Stairs, - St. Louis, Mo.

d282 6m

Up Stairs, - St. Louis, Mo.

d282 6m

Up Stairs, - St. Louis, Mo.

d282 6m

Up Stairs, - St. Louis, Mo.

d282 6m

Up Stairs, - St. Louis, Mo.

d282 6m

Up Stairs, - St. Louis, Mo.

d282 6m

Up Stairs, - St. Louis, Mo.

d282 6m

Up Stairs, - St. Louis, Mo.

d282 6m

Up Stairs, - St. Louis, Mo.

d282 6m

Up Stairs, - St. Louis, Mo.

d282 6m

Up Stairs, - St. Louis, Mo.

d282 6m

Up Stairs, - St. Louis, Mo.

d282 6m

Up Stairs, - St. Louis, Mo.

d282 6m

Up Stairs, - St. Louis, Mo.

d282 6m

Up Stairs, - St. Louis, Mo.

d282 6m

Up Stairs, - St. Louis, Mo.

d282 6m

Up Stairs, - St. Louis, Mo.

d282 6m

Up Stairs, - St. Louis, Mo.

d282 6m

Up Stairs, - St. Louis, Mo.

d282 6m

Up Stairs, - St. Louis, Mo.

d282 6m

Up Stairs, - St. Louis, Mo.

d282 6m

Up Stairs, - St. Louis, Mo.

d282 6m

Up Stairs, - St. Louis, Mo.

d282 6m

Up Stairs, - St. Louis, Mo.

d282 6m

Up Stairs, - St. Louis, Mo.

d282 6m

Up Stairs, - St. Louis, Mo.

d282 6m

Up Stairs, - St. Louis, Mo.

d282 6m

Up Stairs, - St. Louis, Mo.

d282 6m

Up Stairs, - St. Louis, Mo.

d282 6m

Up Stairs, - St. Louis, Mo.

d282 6m

Up Stairs, - St. Louis, Mo.

d282 6m

Up Stairs, - St. Louis, Mo.

d282 6m

Up Stairs, - St. Louis, Mo.

d282 6m

Up Stairs, - St. Louis, Mo.

d282 6m

Up Stairs, - St. Louis, Mo.

d282 6m

Up Stairs, - St. Louis, Mo.

d282 6m

Up Stairs, - St. Louis, Mo.

d282 6m

Up Stairs, - St. Louis, Mo.

d282 6m

Up Stairs, - St. Louis, Mo.

d282 6m

Up Stairs, - St. Louis, Mo.

d282 6m

ST. LOUIS TRADE.

W. H. GUMERSELL & CO.

Importers of

DRESS and CLOAK TRIMMINGS,

LACES, EMBROIDERIES,

French Corsets, Kid Gloves,

HOSIERY,

Zephyr Worsted, Fancy Goods, &c.,

No. 307 N. Fourth St., ST. LOUIS.

Special attention given to orders.

d153 1y

Walter M. Smith & Co.,

Importers and Jobbers of

FOREIGN and DOMESTIC

DRY GOODS

Hosiery and Notions,

No. 200, NORTH MAIN STREET,

Corner of

ST. LOUIS, MO.

Orders can be fully filled.

d261 6m

N. SCHAEFFER,