

## THE GROWTH OF SLANG.

The growth of slang means the decay of language; the admission of a nomenclature 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 the 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 coins 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 dictionaries, 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 commonest use. For money alone there are seventeen equivalents, without counting the slang terms applied to the various species of coins, or 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 codger, a buffer, a "party," and according to his grade he has some fifty subdivisions; according to his profession some eighty or more. This that we have quoted is a mere drop 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 concluded here; low language 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 jest of the fashionable slang being that it is made up of misconstrued French idioms, which in the English garb are sheer nonsense. Witness a wedding "on the tapis," which is twaddle; the *beau monde*, which is rubbish; a *decanter*, which is a riddle; a *chaperon*, which is foolishness; to say nothing of the meaningless frivolities of such words as *faux pas*, *mesalliance*, *recherche*, and a thousand 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 arrogance. A few technical terms constitute the stock in trade of every art critic in England, and fellowship is the key-stone of praise or blame. Through all stations of society runs the lode 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 political "move," he is enlightened to this effect: "Oh! it was a put up thing altogether. Mearypebbles is an out-and-out swindle, and wanted to 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, sooner than use a recognized vocabulary, invents one which is spurious; idleness, double-distilled, imitates this; and so, according to the space left by weakness, does the vice gain ground. Ignorance uses slang, because ignorance copies idleness, which is the parent of sin. —Court Circular.

## THE SIAMSE KING'S HAREM.

Most of the women who composed his harem were of gentle blood, the fairest of the daughters of Siamese nobles, and of princes of the adjacent tributary states; the late queen consort was his own half sister. Besides many choice Chinese and Indian girls, purchased annually for the royal harem by agents stationed at Peking, Foo-Choo, and different points in Bengal, enormous sums were offered, year after year, through "solicitors" at Bangkok and Singapore, for an English woman of beauty and good parentage, to crown the collection, but when I took my leave of Bangkok, in 1868, the coveted specimen had not yet appeared in the market. The cunning commissioners contrived to keep their places and make a living by sending his majesty now and then, a piquant photograph of some British Nourmahal of the period, freshly caught and duly shipped, in good order for the harem; but the goods never arrived. Had the King's taste been Gallic, his requisition might have been filled. I remember a score of genuine offers from French demoiselles, who enclosed their cartes in billets more surprising and enterprising than any other "proposals" it was my office to translate. But his whimsical majesty entertained a lively horror of French intrigue.

The King, as well as most of the principal members of his household, rose at five in the morning, and immediately partook of a slight repast, served by the ladies who had been in waiting through the night; after which, attended by them and his sisters and elder children, he descended and took his station on a long strip of matting, laid from one of the gates through all the avenues to another. On his majesty's left were ranged, first, his children in the order of rank; then the princesses, his sisters; and lastly his maids of honor, and their slaves. Before each was placed a large silver tray containing offerings of boiled rice, fruit, cakes and the seri leaf; some even had cigars.

A little after five, the Paton Dharma ("Gate of Merit") was thrown open, and the masons of the guard drawn up on either side. Then the priests entered, always by that gate—one hundred and ninety-nine of them, escorted on the right and left by men armed with swords and clubs—and as they entered they chanted, "Take thy meat, but think it dust! Eat but to live, and but to know thyself, and what thou art below! And withal unto thy heart, 'tis earth I eat, that to the earth I may new life impart." Then the chief priest, who led the procession, advanced with downcast eyes and lowly mein, and very simply presented his bowl (slung from his neck by a cord, and until that moment hidden under the folds of his yellow robe) to the members of the royal household, who offered their fruit or cakes, of their spoons full of rice or sweetmeats. In like manner did all his brethren. If, by any chance, one before whom a tray was placed was not ready and waiting with an offering, no priest stopped, but all continued to advance slowly, taking only what was freely offered, without thanks or even a look of acknowledgement, until the end of the royal train was reached, when the procession retired, chanting as before, by the gate called Dula, or, in the court language, Prithri, "Gate of Earth."

After this, the King and all his company repaired to his private temple, dedicated by his majesty to the memory of his mother. This is an edifice of unique and charming beauty, decorated throughout by artists from Japan, who have represented on the walls, in designs as diverse and ingenious as they are costly, the numerous metempsychoses of Buddha. Here his majesty ascended alone the steps of the altar, rang a bell to announce the hour of devotion, lighted the consecrated tapers, and offered the white lotus and the roses. Then he spent an hour in prayer, and in reading texts from the Phrajana Parimita and the Phra-ti-Moksha. This service over, he retired for another nap, attended by a fresh detail of women—those who had waited the night before being dismissed, not to be recalled for a month, or at least a fortnight, save as a peculiar mark of preference or favor to some one who had the good fortune to please or amuse him; but most of the party voluntarily waited upon him every afternoon.

At two o'clock he rose again, and, with the aid of his women, bathed and anointed his person. Then he descended to a breakfast chamber, where he was served with the most substantial meal of the day. Here he chatted with his favorites among the wives, and carressed his children, taken them in his arms, embracing them, plying them with puzzling or funny questions, and making droll faces at the babes; the more agreeable the mother, the dearer the child. The love of children was the constant and hearty virtue of this forlorn despot. They appealed to him by their beauty and their truthfulness; they refreshed him with the bold innocence of their ways, so frolicsome, graceful and quaint. From this decisive scene of domestic condescension and kindness he passed to his hall of audience to consider official matters. Twice a week at sunset he appeared at one of the gates of the palace to hear the complaints and petitions of the poorest of his subjects, who at no other time or place could reach his ear. It was most pitiful to see the helpless, awe-stricken wretches, prostrate and abject as toads, many too terrified to present the precious petition after all. At nine he retired to his private apartments.

"A strong minded woman," at Sioux City, Iowa, keeps a house of refreshment which she has dignified with the name of the "Woman's Rights Hotel."

A colored Bluebeard in Mobile, at the age of eighty-seven, is husband to a seventh wife and forty-one children, the youngest of which is only five months old.

Fur and leather clothing is used by half of the inhabitants of the globe, for these materials prevail in Siberia, Northern Europe, two-thirds of North America and the southern extremity of South America.

The Marquis of Lorne, who is to marry the English Princess Louise, is generously supplied with names, his cognomen being John George Edward Henry Douglas Southerland Campbell.

A cruel mother, in Indiana, recently captured and married her daughter's intended, whereat the young lady took umbrage and by way of dire revenge set off half a dozen bunches of fire crackers under the bridal couch.

The Boston Commonwealth says the two old women, who distributed ballots in one of the wards in that city at the recent election, did it modestly and effectively, and that their presence was pleasing to the politicians generally.

"Here, Alfred, is an apple; divide it politely with your little sister."

"How shall I divide it politely mamma?"

"Give the larger part to the other person, my child."

Alfred handed the apple to his little sister, saying, "Here, sis, you divide it."

The Bank of New York is experiencing the inconvenience of having a stout safe with an ingenious combination lock. On Monday of last week their lock was closed so securely that all the efforts of cashier, tellers, clerks and the maker himself, have not availed to open it, and the bank could neither borrow nor lend.

A couple of Iowa farmers, in Hardin county who went to law over a small difference of opinion about twenty-five dollars, several years ago, have just settled it and made up by selling both their farms to pay law costs. Those who dance must pay the fiddler.

COAL.—In front of I. A. Mitchell's store on East Temple street there is a large piece of coal, taken from the Wasatch Coal Mine, of which F. A. M. is part owner and proprietor. The "chunk" weighs over six hundred-weight, and is a fine specimen.

NEVADA AND THE MORMONS.—The Reese River Reveille, referring to remarks recently made by a city cotemporary on Senator Stewart's resolution of inquiring about the mails, admits that the Mormon settlement was a blessing not only to the overland route, but also to a great portion of the early overland emigration to California. It says:

"The weary emigrant found there a haven where he and his worn out animals could recuperate, and from which he started with a new lease of vigor and, in some cases, of life.

But it asserts that it is altogether a mistake to suppose that the existence of the State of Nevada is due to the Mormons, they had no agency whatever in it. It says the discovery of silver in Virginia City is what brought the people there who made the State of Nevada, and these people came from California. The discoverers of the Comstock were not Mormons, nor did the Mormons ever do anything to help the settlement of the State. On the contrary, the few Mormon settlements at Franktown, in Washoe valley, and on the banks of the Carson river, "pulled up stakes" and left for Utah about the time of the silver discovery.

Our cotemporary is undoubtedly correct in saying that the discovery of silver in Virginia City brought the people who made the State of Nevada; but the first settlers in what is now the State of Nevada were "Mormons;" and it is to the "Mormons" that the nation is indebted for the existence of the State, for if they did not stop and develop the mines the food they produced in Utah fed those who did; and Senator Stewart knew or ought to have known this when he made his insulting allusion to the people of Utah.

REMARKABLE PRESERVATION.—The Grass Valley Union, of the 15th says:

"On Tuesday afternoon, about two o'clock as several of the workmen were coming up the steep incline of the Allison Ranch mine, one of their number, John White, by chance stepped on a roller, and his foothold giving way, he fell down the shaft a distance of two hundred feet, sustaining a severe laceration of the scalp, and many other bruises, but no broken bones. His escape from fatal injury seems almost miraculous."

SHOOTING.—The Helena Gazette of the 16th, contains some particulars of the shooting of a man named Doctor Collins at that place, called Beaver Creek, Montana. Mr. Collins was sitting in his cabin, it appears, when a man, unknown to him, entered and passed a remark or two about the weather, and at once took out his revolver and commenced firing. One ball "took effect under Mr. Collins' left eye and passed out under his jaw; the other ball entered his breast, traversing a rib and lodging in his back. After committing this hellish deed the fellow immediately left." It is the opinion that Collins will recover. A party of men were out in search of the would-be assassin, but up to the above date without success.

## FOR SALE!

UPON Reasonable Terms, a good CONCORD BUGGY, for which cash or U. P. R. R. Paper will be taken. Apply at DESERET NEWS OFFICE. w45 s801f

## LOST!

Between Springville and Provo, about two months since, a span of small MARES. One a dark iron-gray, ten years old, and branded H S on left thigh; the other is a roan, three years old, with < on right thigh.

Any person giving information that will lead to their recovery will be rewarded by Wm. C. ASTO, Big Cottonwood. w47-2

## TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN.

That cash entry, No. 319, for the city of Lehi' embracing section 17, S. W. quarter of section 9 S. E. quarter of section 8, S. E. quarter of section 18, and N. E. quarter of section 19, township No. 5, south of range No. 1 east, has been suspended for further proof.

And this is to notify all claimants that on the 24th of January, A. D. 1871, at 10 o'clock a.m., I will appear at the U. S. Land Office, Salt Lake City, U. T., to make the proof required, and show that I am entitled to have the entry of said land confirmed under the town site Act of March 2d, 1867, for the use and benefit of the inhabitants thereof, at which time and place any person or persons can appear and contest if they see proper.

W. H. WINN, Mayor.  
Lehi City, December 19th, 1870. w47-4

## LOST!

A SORREL MARE with a spot in forehead and on nose with heavy bushy tail, which strayed off from its dam when the latter was killed near my farm. On my place Davis County, about September, 1869. Whoever has got the Colt and will send or bring her to me, in the 14th Ward shall be rewarded. Any information about the Colt will be a favor to d21 w46 2 SHADRAH ROUNDY.