

## EDITORIALS.

## FRANKLIN ON FARMING AND HOME MANUFACTURE.

THE following letter from Dr. Benjamin Franklin, we find in the *Germantown Telegraph*, therein published for the first time. Though upwards of a century old, the doctrine Franklin advocates is as good and applicable now as then, and moreover the letter may be regarded as a curiosity, and for both reasons will be interesting to our readers:

LONDON, April 23, 1771.

SIR,

I duly received your Favours of the 4th of October and the 16th of November. It gave me Pleasure to hear, that tho' the Merchants had departed from their Agreement of Non-Importation, the Spirit of Industry and Frugality was likely to continue among the People.—I am obliged to you for your Concern on my Account. The Letters you mention gave great Offence here; but that was not attended with the immediate ill Consequences to my Interest that seem to have been hoped for by those that sent Copies of them hither.

If our Country People would well consider, that all they save in refusing to purchase foreign Gewgaws, & in making their own Apparel, being applied to the Improvement of their Plantations, would render those more profitable, as yielding a greater Produce, I should hope they would persist resolutely in their present commendable Industry and Frugality.—And there is still a farther Consideration. The Colonies that produce Provisions grow very fast: But of the Countries that take off those Provisions, some do not increase at all, as the European nations; and others, as the West Indian Colonies, not in the same Proportion. So that tho' the Demand at present may be sufficient, it cannot long continue so.—Every Manufacturer encouraged in our Country, makes part of a Market for Provisions within ourselves, and saves so much Money to the Country as must otherwise be exported to pay for the Manufactures he supplies. Here in England it is well known and understood, that wherever a Manufacture is established which employs a Number of Hands, it raises the value of Lands in the neighboring Country all around it; partly by the greater Demand near at hand for the Produce of the Land; and partly from the Plenty of Money Drawn by the Manufacturers to that part of the Country. It seems therefore the Interest of all our Farmers and owners of Lands, to encourage our young Manufacturers in preference to foreign ones imported among us from distant Countries.

I am much obliged by your kind Present of curious Seeds. They were welcome Gifts to some of my Friends.—I send you herewith some of the new Barley lately introduced into this Country, & now highly spoken of. I wish it may be found of Use with us.

I was more pleas'd to see in your Letter the Improvement of our Paper, having had a principal Share in establishing that Manufacture among us many Years ago, by the Encouragement I gave it.

If by anything I can serve you here, it will be a Pleasure to

Your obliged Friend  
and humble Servant,  
B. FRANKLIN.

MR. HUMPHREY MARSHALL.

## ABOUT PUBLIC DEBTS.

GOVERNOR Noyes, of Ohio, in a speech at Athens, made the following sensible remarks, which are worthy of reproduction by every newspaper in the Union—

No man who wishes well for the State can notice without concern the rapid and enormous increase in the local indebtedness of our smaller political divisions. Incompetent, irresponsible, and reckless officials often squander the public money; and sometimes the better judgment of communities is improperly swayed by specious arguments and false representations, for purposes of private gain. While the State debt is decreasing, our cities and counties are preparing a burden which will be found heavy and oppressive in the coming years. All good citizens should set their faces against this mortgage of the future, and no evil should be borne in mind while the people are selecting members of the Legislature and their county officers.

## ONE OF THE AGRICULTURAL PARTY.

C. W. B., a member of the Agricultural Editorial Excursion party, recently in this city, thus describes, in the *Springfield, Mass., Republican*, a morning at Salt Lake City—

Our first morning in Salt Lake was charming and beautiful beyond description. The bracing mountain air came in at my window, and woke me to the pleasant duties of the day, before the sun peered over the hills into the valley, and I strolled out into the streets of the town at early dawn, that I might see something of Salt Lake City life at "five o'clock in the morning," as well as in the business hours of the day. I went first into the principal market place, to see the farmers coming in with their loads of fruits and vegetables, and poultry and eggs, all invitingly fresh and carefully prepared for exhibition and sale. There were apricots, plums, pears and apples, well ripened and abundant. Potatoes, turnips, beets, carrots, parsneps, cabbage, the finest cauliflower I ever saw, tomatoes, water-melons, cucumbers, water-

crosses, and in fact the whole list of vegetables to be found in Washington market, New York, or Hancock hall, Boston, with fine speckled trout from Utah Lake, and salmon trout from the California streams. The fruits of California are also brought here fresh and sound, and are so cheaply. Meats are also, of the staple varieties, plentiful, and up to the average of the eastern markets in quality. Taken as a whole, the facility and economy with which a table can be supplied in Salt Lake City, are far ahead of Springfield. From the markets I walked on through some of the residence streets. The houses are mostly low-roofed and largely embowered in shade trees, of which the locust, box-elder, and narrow-leaved cottonwood are the leading varieties. The grounds about the houses are mostly covered with closely-grown fruit trees, loaded with ripening fruit, the apricot trees on every hand being weighed to the ground with their heavy burdens of golden fruit. Brilliant flowers line the pathways, and the morning glory in all its varied hues, from the pure white and royal purple to the never-ending mottled shades, adorn the porches and windows and doorways. And in every direction, no matter whether my footsteps led me, were heard the pleasant, surging, rippling sound of the running waters of the irrigating ditches, making their way over their gravelly beds as clear and bright as when they leapt out of the mountain's canyon. Such are the leading characteristics of Salt Lake City out-door life, and it is undoubtedly a closer mingling and combining of city and country life in the same locality than can be elsewhere found.

## PUNCTUATION.

A TREATISE ON ENGLISH PUNCTUATION; designed for Letter-writers, Authors, Printers, and Correctors of the Press; also for the use of Schools and Academies. With an Appendix, containing rules on the use of Capitals, a list of Abbreviations, Hints on the Preparation of Copy and on Proof-Reading, Specimen of Proof-sheet, etc. By John Wilson. Twenty-first Edition; 334 pages. Woolworth, Ainsworth & Co., New York and Chicago. For sale at Dwyer's.

This is a work of reference, being almost exhaustive in character, so far as it relates to the subjects treated upon. A very large portion of it, including examples, illustrations, remarks, etc., is in very small type. Perhaps it is the fullest and most complete work extant upon the department of knowledge to which it relates. It is worthy of a place in every library, a careful perusal by every person who writes even so little as a letter: only now and then, and of close study by all those whose profession or business brings them to frequent use of the pen.

By the generality of people punctuation is held to be one of the most mysterious of all accomplishments. Many persons consider its rules and the reasons therefor perfectly inscrutable, past finding out, and its pursuit is very commonly given up in despair, as being only a delusion and a snare to all, except a wonderfully favored few. This is a mistake. Punctuation is very often made a much less comprehensible matter than there is any need for it to be, because so many individuals forget that simplicity is the crowning point of perfection, and, in their anxiety to comprehend the arcana of composition, which includes pointing, they make the matter so much more mysterious than it really is, that they find themselves perfectly bewildered and utterly unable to fathom it. Consequently they give it up in despair, as a subject entirely beyond their intelligence and their capacity to understand.

To all such we may offer a few suggestions, which will be of more value to them, in endeavoring to obtain a tolerable understanding of the mysteries of punctuation, than either the work mentioned at the beginning of this article, or the most voluminous and exhaustive treatise that ever has been or ever could be penned upon the subject. Because a lengthy and full exposition of the whole subject contains so many things, illustrated with such profuseness and variety, that common minds would find it difficult if not impossible to reduce all the rules and remarks and illustrations to ordinary practice. Punctuation for the people should be such as would be readily understood and always available to them.

The first thing to remember, then, is simplicity. It should be never lost sight of, but always sought. The cumbersome and the complex should be avoided as much as reasonably could be done. It is better to err even on the side of simplicity than on that of complexity.

Many people seem to imagine that in writing they must use all the points employed in punctuation, and use them as often as they can be inserted. This must be so, for numbers of people, of talent and even genius, great writers and

authorities upon literature and language too, are so anxious to punctuate elaborately that, not content with using the simple points which usage has brought down to us, they practically invent more by putting two points together. For instance, they will put a comma and a dash, a semi-colon and a dash, or a colon and a dash together. In fact we believe some people are so anxious to punctuate thoroughly as to use three points together—the comma, or semicolon, the parenthesis and the dash! This double or treble stopping is not simply ridiculous—it is complexly and cumbrously ridiculous. And who can understand it? Who can render an intelligible reason for it? Yet some of the very best writers are committed to this absurd practice.

By ever keeping an eye upon simplicity, then, we shall avoid this complex and useless double stopping, and have one mystery out of the way. Happily, of late years the tendency of much of the most widely read literature, the newspapers for instance, is towards simplicity of construction, and consequently of punctuation.

In a few cases double stopping, so far as the use of the period and dash together are concerned, is well established and almost universal. For instance, in dividing headings or sub-headings of chapters, and at the commencement of dialogue paragraphs, between the name of the speaker and what he speaks. Yet a dash only is often used in each of these cases. After the side-heading of a paragraph or longer article the period and dash together are useful. With a parenthesis also a comma or a semicolon is sometimes employed, but this need be very seldom, for parentheses themselves need be used but very sparingly.

This brings us to the subject of parenthetic sentences or portions of sentences. Remembering our prudent fear of the complex and cumbersome, and our equally prudent love of simplicity, we shall ever regard parenthetic portions of a sentence with suspicion and rather seek to avoid them, by employing simpler and more direct forms of expression.

Then let us have, as few parentheses as we can, and let such as we do have be as short and simple as we can conveniently make them, for simplicity and perspicuity have a great affinity for each other, and are apt to go together.

Then how shall we point parentheses? The same as we do other parts of a sentence—in as simple a style as we can, leaving the sense clear. Some people enclose their parentheses with dashes. It can be done better otherwise. The simplest parentheses, when we must have any, are sufficiently perspicuous if separated from the other parts of the sentence by commas only. Where commas are deemed insufficient, use the parenthetical marks ( ) boldly, without squeamishness. They are the proper marks to be used when so needed. They are employed for no other purpose, and they are very distinctive.

Then about the dash—when and where may that be used? The dash is very significant of itself. It can be very properly used where there is any hiatus, something more indicated and coming, an explanation or amplification of what immediately precedes it, as in the first sentence of this paragraph.

The semicolon is seldom used now by many good writers, perspicuous in their writings, and the colon scarcely ever by them. In fact in a great deal of the literature of the day the colon is practically discarded. It is in use in long-winded lawyers' briefs, ancient manuscripts, old books, and pedantic compositions, but in popular literature, even of the best class, it is very seldom used, except where double stopping with the dash, and even there the dash is naturally more expressive than the colon, and all sufficient without it.

We know that some people will oppose the views here expressed. It is their privilege to do so if they choose. We are not writing to construct a theory of punctuation, as elaborate as possible, and to exemplify the practice of such a theory. Those who desire can point as highly and complexly as they please, with all the points, single points, double points, treble points, and points interchangeable in use. But we are writing for the people, who desire and who need that the mysterious subject of punctuation be simplified and presented in a manner that they can readily com-

prehend and adopt, or adapt if they wish.

We will therefore add a few words in the way of recapitulation and condensation. Write in short and simple sentences—complex and cumbrous sentences will obtrude themselves quite as often as they are wanted. Use the simplest points in punctuating—the comma, the dash, the period. If the comma and the period only will make the meaning of the sentence clear, use no other points. Use the semicolon and the parenthesis marks when you really need them to make the sense clear, but not otherwise. The colon can be done without by ordinary writers. The proper places for the interrogation and the exclamation points will readily suggest themselves. Put no more points of any kind in a sentence than are required to make the sense clear. Use the dash in case of hiatus, amplification, or where something is indicated as following, but do not use it if you think the comma will leave your meaning as clear as the dash would. Use the semi-colon in a sentence where neither the comma nor the dash would leave your meaning sufficiently clear.

From the above it will be seen that the comma is the great point-of-all-work in the interior of a sentence, and in most sentences the comma is all sufficient. This is simple enough surely.

Does the reader know what points have been employed in punctuating this column and a half, excepting the first paragraph, which is mostly copied from the title page of the work mentioned, and excepting the parenthesis marks, which are introduced merely for the sake of illustration? Firstly and chiefly, the comma within the sentences, and the period at the end. Next, the dash, and the interrogation and the exclamation points, but all these three sparingly. Yet we think we could safely say that the meaning could nowhere be made plainer by the use of either semi-colons, colons, or double stops—not even if the contents of the fullest and best stocked compositor's pepperbox were showered down upon it.

## REVOLUTION IN THE NORTH.

Now little Iceland is getting up a revolution, where one would hardly think the climate is warm enough for any excitement of that kind. But perhaps the people there are doing it as a capital means of keeping themselves warm. At any rate the Danish papers report that an extensive political agitation has begun there, with the object of effecting a complete separation of that island from the government of Denmark. Last June at Thingvalir, the place where the old Icelandic Althings used to assemble, a great public meeting was held, attended by delegates from all points of Iceland, when it was resolved to use every effort to bring to an end the Danish rule in that country, and to obtain from Denmark a free constitution, giving the Icelanders a government of their own, the only bond remaining between the two countries to be that of a common sovereign. The *Pall Mall Gazette* believes that the real object of this agitation is to bring about a union with Norway, and that if the present demand for a personal union with Denmark were conceded, the Icelanders would take the first opportunity to break away from Denmark altogether.

On general principles, one would think the best thing for those Scandinavian and Icelandic nations would be to hang together in some kind of strong federation.

By the by, some of the Icelanders are betraying a desire in another way to escape from the power of the Danish government, and at the same time move further within the temperate zone, to a less rigorous climate. They are coming this way. A large number of Icelanders recently left their native land, the land of congelation, and immigrated part to Canada and part to the United States. Some, who arrived at Toronto, are described as healthy and clean, and but for their language and a few minor distinctions in points of dress, might be taken for persons from the east of Scotland.

Esquimaux Joe and his wife, who came with the returned part of the *Polaris* party, it is said, design to make the United States their residence in future. All are welcome. There is room on this broadland for millions yet from all longitudes and latitudes, and here is climatic

variety sufficient also. Furthermore, here is a form of government existing, that is liberal enough in theory, spirit and intent, if it is only administered in accordance therewith, to allow of the extension of its protecting wings over representatives of all nations and races. Let them come and welcome.

FEMINE BRAVERY AND FORTITUDE.—Lady Baker, with admirable devotion, accompanies Sir Samuel Baker in his dangerous African adventures. Of his last expedition, in which many perils from fatigue, treachery, fighting at great odds, and other causes were endured and overcome, Sir Samuel writes, "Lady Baker has accompanied me throughout the journey with great fatigue, having had to march on foot for great distances, amidst constant fighting, for seven consecutive days. We have, thank God, been always in good health, and the troops have not suffered much loss of life considering the exposure. In fifteen months I only lost one man from sickness out of two hundred and twelve."

EXCITED.—To-day is election day in California, and the political ferment there may be expected to culminate. For quite a time past the California newspapers have had little time or disposition to enlarge upon any subject except the platforms and policies of parties and the merits and demerits of candidates. After the election the writers for the press may enjoy a lucid interval again, and the dish-washy everlasting politics may give way in larger part to subjects of more interest and profit to the general public.

TROTTER SPEED.—The fastest time by trotting horses is given by *Harper's Monthly* for September—Bonner's Joe Elliot a mile in 2:15; Bonner's Startle a mile in 2:10; the same horse half a mile in 1:04; Bonner's Pocahontas half a mile in 1:04.

We have not heard of this time being equalled in this valley, but there is a race course, upon which any horse can try to eclipse these figures.

## THE YALE SCIENTIFIC EXPLORATION PARTY.

The members of the Yale Exploring party have been in this city for the past two or three days; some of them arrived last Friday night, but Professor Marsh did not reach this city until Sunday evening. The gentlemen of the expedition have been staying at the Townsend House. Their names are as follow: Prof. O. C. Marsh, Yale College; O. Harger, New Haven, Ct.; T. M. Prudden, New Haven, Ct.; W. C. Beecher, Brooklyn, N. Y.; Clark Dewing, Stamford, Ct.; H. A. Oaks, New Haven, Ct.; Abbot Kinney, Baltimore, Md.; A. B. Waring, Yonkers, N. Y.; C. G. Knox, Yonkers, New York; H. G. Cheney, Manchester, Connecticut; H. C. Newall, San Francisco, Cal.; F. S. Wicks, Syracuse, N. Y.; Henry Farnam, New Haven, Ct.; D. Huntington, Cincinnati, O.

The party is under Professor Marsh. The gentlemen accompanying him are all graduates of Yale, interested in science, and not students who have come for the purpose of being instructed.

THE OBJECTS OF THE EXPEDITIONS and the following facts connected with the Yale explorations were obtained from members of the party. This is the fourth year in which Professor Marsh and graduates of Yale have been similarly engaged. The object of the expeditions is to study out the extinct animals of the western region, especially those of the cretaceous and tertiary formations.

This year the party

## LEFT NEW HAVEN

on the 5th of June. They made a very successful expedition, from McMepererson, Nebraska, into the Niobrara River country. They had an escort of two companies of the 3d Cavalry, under Col. Mills. They made many interesting discoveries, including fossil horses, rhinoceroses, elephants, serpents, camels, etc. The trip lasted about a month.

## THE SECOND EXPEDITION.

was made from Fort Bridger, W.