

ERRORS OF SPEECH.

Those errors of speech caught up in the careless of school and childish association of terms or less investment to every body—particularly those who are not well grounded in the complexities of our rather puzzling syntactical rules. An educated stranger visiting America might well say that there was no breeding or culture, where people claiming the most conspicuous social rank offend most grossly, in every sentence, the taste of cultivation and the commonest rules of grammar. An article in *Heart and Home* points pretty fully the oftentimes blunders of speech, and we can perhaps aid our readers by copying the list entire:

They have been thoroughly trained in the grammar of the language, and yet refuse to be regulated by its precepts. This class is a large one, and includes among its audacious sinners:

First—Those who use the objective case for the nominative; as, "It is me," "It is I," "It is he," for "It is she," "It is us," for "It is we."

Second—Those who use the nominative case for the objective; as, "Between you and I," for "Between you and me," "Like you and I," for "Like you and me," "I know you mean," for "I know whom you mean."

Third—Those whose subjects and verbs do not agree in number and person; as, "I say I," for "I say I," "You was," for "You were," "My feet's cold," for "My feet are cold," "There's thirty," for "There are thirty."

Fourth—Those who use the indicative mood for the subjunctive; as, "If I was you," for "If I were you."

Fifth—Those who use the present tense for the past; as, "I see you yesterday," for "I saw you yesterday."

Sixth—Those who use the intransitive verb for the transitive; as, "If he is a mind to," for "If he has a mind to."

Seventh—Those who use incoherently the much abused verb *to sit*; as, "I am going to lay down," for "I am going to lie down," "I laid down this morning," for "I lay down this morning," "I shall set there," for "I shall sit there."

Eighth—Those who use the adverb for the adjective; as, "She looks beautifully," for "She looks beautiful," or its opposite, "She walks gracefully," for "She walks gracefully."

Nine—Those who use a plural adjective with a singular noun; as, "Those kind," for "That kind," "Six pair," for "Six pairs."

Ten—Those who use the compound relative for the conjunction; as, "I do not know but what I will," for "I do not know but that I will."

Eleven—Those who use the objective case after the conjunction *that*; as, "He knows more than me," for "He knows more than I."

Twelve—Those who use double negatives; as, "No, you don't neither," for "No, you don't either."

Thirteen—Those who use the wrong preposition; as, "Different to," for "Different from," "In regard to," for "With regard to."

Fourteen—Those who use the superlative degree for the comparative; as, "The oldest of the two," for "The elder of the two."

Old and New.

AMERICAN SLANG.

The utter ignorance of the English of the signification of American slang expressions often causes some curious scenes between them and Yankee buyers in England, who seem to think that because their language generally is understood, all the American idioms will be. An expert buyer, junior partner in one of our large American firms, at a recent visit to his correspondent in an English manufacturing city, was accompanied by the senior partner of the house, who insisted on personally showing goods to his American purchaser.

"There sir," said Dowling, throwing out a roll of goods, "what do you think of that?"

"O, that's played out," said the American.

"It's what?" said Bull.

"It's played out, I tell you," said his customer.

"Played—ah! really—we call it *plaid* by 'yar in England, but this is 'nt plaid—plaid you know?"

"No," said Yankee, "I don't mean plaid. I mean 'ter say it's gone up."

"Oh, no," said Britisher, "not at all; it has not gone up quite to the contrary. We've taken off from the price."

"Over the left, it's threepence too high now."

"No doubt of it, but our neighbors on the left are not manufacturers; you know."

"Very likely; but I don't care to be 'stuck' when I get home."

"Really. Most extraordinary. Is it as dangerous in New York as the newspapers say?"

"Yes, but I don't want these goods. I've got some already that will 'knock the spots out of 'em.'"

"But, my dear sir, there's no spots on the goods, I assure you. They are perfect."

"Well, well, suppose we 'switch off' on these goods, and try something else."

"Certainly!" and the Englishman, to the infinite amusement of the American, called a clerk with a wisp broom and directed him to "switch off" any dust he could find, while he proceeded to show something else.

"There," said the Englishman, triumphantly, spreading out another fabric, "there's the handsomest piece of goods in England, 'arf a guinea yard."

"I can't see it," said his customer.

"Can't see it? Why you are looking straight at it; however, suppose you try the light of this window."

"No, I don't mean that," said the American, "I haven't got the stamps for these goods."

"Stamps? No stamps required but a bill stamp, which we are happy to furnish."

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