

# THE EVENING NEWS.

TUESDAY, June 4, 1872.

## THE EXPERT AT HOME.

(CONTINUED.)  
The moral question here did not appear to interfere with enjoyment as much as in the home of the squire. Both the squire and my later hostess walked with the theological bear in their shoes—but one was boiled. My hostess was a sinner, with one foot in the Roman Catholic Church; who had taught her daughters to sketch, play the piano, and amuse themselves on Sunday, which the squire, with his church views, would have regarded as enormous. The guests of the second household were mostly high-churchmen, with fine foreign introductions. Church views are strong in the middle and well-to-do classes, and grow correspondingly weak as one mounts the social ladder. Golden blondes, opera bouffes, the Derby, and Anonymas and pots of the aristocracy, which has not escaped the materialism engendered by the contact. There is, too, a sort of art revival in this class, a tendency to fall back on the old pagan forms, and a disposition to encourage them, as is manifested in the developing fad of "feminism," so accepted the colonial views, which is breaking down the old Puritan restraints. The examples of frailty and licentiousness in some of the leading personages of the kingdom are also contributing to this result.

On the occasion of the English language meeting of the消滅 of dissidence at dinner in this hospitable house. Where was it spoken best—in England, Scotland, Ireland, or America? It is generally conceded that the best French is spoken in Touraine, the best German in Hanover, and the best Italian in Florence; but there is not general accord as to where the language of Shakespeare is the purest. As a rule, the untravelled man considers the language pure to which he is accustomed. The name of culture in which travel is implied, speaks pretty nearly alike in the four English-speaking countries. The person thought Oxford was the mother of good English. Another thought it was as well spoken in Dublin as elsewhere, while I submitted the claims of Boston. It was generally conceded that he whose nationality could not be detected from his speech spoke the best English, which led to remarks on the difference between American English and English English, when I produced a memorandum of certain differences had observed during my sojourn in England, which were as follows:

American.	English.
Vest	Waistcoat.
Pantaloons or pants	Trousers.
Suspender	Braies.
Elevator	Lift.
Railroad	Railway.
Street railroad	Tramway.
Buy a ticket	Book.
Conductor	Guard.
Baggage wagon	Luggage van.
Switch of	Shift.
Car	Carriage.
Switch (in telegraph)	Smart.
Horn	Beep.
Knock you	Bust.
A place	Aye.
Grocery	Grocer.
Just think!	Indeed!
I reckon, or I venture	Shant (Italian A).
Frome to come	Clever.
Cuss	Smart.
Gandy	Smart.
Reliable	Trustworthy.
Chum	Afghan or scat.
Go hunting	Go shooting.

The Americans showed a tenacity of language which I believe closer to the English element than the Americans. One of the dames observed that the word "sister" was vulgar, and I could not but agree with her. I could not, however, understand how she, being of an English nature, felt a special interest in the word. Another thought it was suggestive of a meat market. This led to talk on Americans, which created some merriment. Americans—American dialect, American—American—was presented for discussion. I objected on the ground that they were not the same for the use of our fair countrymen, while I was assailed by the latter of Americans—properly, upon which I gave a few that occurred to me at the time. The person, who was the philologist of the table, took up several American words to illustrate. She said that we were ignorant of the origin of the ancient American words, and other of the words were derived from American. No work covers, and dwelling particularly on our constant use of the word "milk."

It was generally conceded that the American slang was more striking and original than the English. Words like skedaddle are born only on American soil. The difference is seen when equivalent slang is compared; as, when an attempt is made to humbug an Englishman, he says to the tempter, "Walkabout" and Americans say "Too thin." The best known words of Transatlantic birth are as familiar to the English as the American ear; but when a word is in full vogue in England it is in its decline in America, and when it declines in the former it is dead in the latter country. Thus, the cradle of dialect seems to be on this side. The inventive faculty with which the American born has been greatly trained, shone brightly in the creation of the Patent Office; he applies it to common phrases as well as machines. This inventive trait is one of the greatest differences between the two nations. Every third American has invented something; not one Englishman in twenty has.

A common habit in England is to exclaim "Oh!" on receiving a response as "How do you like it?" to "Mail it?" "Six miles?" "How far?" "How across the Channel," and the like. This is their businesslike imitation of "galliard." The variation of tone in English conversation is another feature peculiar to England.

The language in the United States does not present this variety, but usually travels on a dead level, which is often monotonous. On the other hand, the American uses all his syllables, which the Englishman often does not. The former has not developed the riches of the Italian A; while the British goes to extremes in the use of it, and infuses on the proclivities of O.

To be continued.

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