

by a preposition and itself governing cases like a verb. Here we have the gerund to all intents and purposes equivalent to the gerundive, and that is said to be a kind of participle. But Max Muller, and after him Mason, calls this a gross mistake, and affirms that a gerund is not a participle at all. Then we have something or other ending in "ing," which some grammarians call a gerundial infinitive. In addition, we have what is known by way of distinction as the participle in "ing." So this delirious babble goes on and the result is nothing, practically nothing. Why not do as some American grammarians have done, enlarge the definition of the participle to include all forms of the verb that have a double function in a sentence, except the ordinary infinitive? There are three

reasons why this plan has not yet been adopted by grammarians in Canada and England. It is modern and simple and it is of American origin! Further, it is generally acknowledged that there is in reality no inflection to indicate person in nouns, and a very slight inflection in verbs; that with a few exceptions there is no gender in nouns and only two cases; that there are only two tenses and two moods in verbs; and that the passive voice has only an imaginary existence in our language. Yet, notwithstanding all this, we allow ourselves to make a tacit admission of the correctness of the absurd distinctions made in these instances by grammarians. We hope the time is not far distant when English Grammar will be freed forever from those shackles with which pedantry and old-fogyism have burdened it.

## TEACHING—INTELLECTUAL TRAINING.\*

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**H**ACKNEYED and commonplace though the subject may seem, it is one of those to the consideration of which it is vitally necessary that our attention should ever and anon be recalled. Just as it is well for the individual man to be constantly reminded of the main end and aim of his existence, so it is advisable for the members of any profession to be constantly reminded of the purpose which his profession is to serve in the body politic. Not only so, but so much are we surrounded in these days with an atmosphere of doubt and unbelief, and so strong are the attacks upon the fundamental articles of our faith and practice, that it is absolutely

indispensable for every individual once and again to review the articles of his professional creed in order that he may anew intellectually grasp and practically live up to them. If this be true in any profession, emphatically is it so in ours. Surrounded as we are by systems innumerable, encompassed by methods, many of them estimable in themselves, though hampered with routine at every point, I have found from my own experience, and noticed in the experience of others, that we are extremely prone to forget the living germ, and fix our attention solely, or principally, upon its environments. No greater mistake can be made in life than for any one thus to mistake the *clothes* for the *man*, the *words* for the *idea*, the *how*

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