

# THE INSTRUCTOR,

FOR  
NOVA SCOTIA, NEW BRUNSWICK,  
AND PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

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## The English Language.

WHEN we consider the many dialects or different ways of employing the English language, we are almost inclined to set the expression—"the English language," down as convertible; and under every phase meaning the same thing—English.

We have correct English, such as is generally employed by the English scholar; we have so to speak English, some of which is bad; we have Scotch English and Irish English, much of which would not be bad if better accented; then we have Yankee English, which is abominable; we have French English, which we were going to say is no English at all; we have Indian English, which, altho' spoken by the descendants of an almost extinct race in the Lower Provinces, is full as good, if not better, than some we have named; we have Gaelic English, with its soft nasal accent; and we have in some sections of the coun-

try Negro English, Welch English, etc.

And to crown the whole, we have Provincial English, which is generally acknowledged to come closer to the standard of correct English, both in accent and the use of appropriate language than any of those named.

The English generally spoken by the reading portion of the descendants of the Scotch, English and Irish, is far superior to that employed by the original emigrants.

The worst feature is our inclination to drift into the use of slang words and phrases—Yankeeisms, etc., which should be studiously avoided. Progress in language is equally as commendable as progress in other departments of human enquiry; man's restless spirit, especially in a progressive age like the present, is on the alert; new ideas, new things, and new forms of thought, require new names to re-