

Correspondence.

To the Editor of CHURCH WORK,—

In a late number of your useful and interesting little paper the *Treacle* Bible was noticed, so called from "Is there no balm in Gilead?" being read "Is there no *treacle* in Gilead?" and it was intimated that this was the printer's error. Though *balm* is correct, yet *treacle* was not quite so mistaken as many of your readers might imagine. I therefore take the liberty of sending you the following brief article from Archbishop Trench's "Glossary of English Words":

"TREACLE. At present it means only the sweet syrup of molasses, but a word once of far wider reach and far nobler significance, has come to us from afar, and by steps which are curious to be traced. They are these: the Greeks, in anticipation of a modern homeopathy, called a supposed antidote to the viper's bite, which was composed of the viper's flesh, *theriake* from *therion*, a name often given to the viper (Acts xxviii, 5); of this came the Latin *theriaca*, and our "theriac," of which, or rather of the Latin form, "treacle" is but a popular corruption.

For a most strong *treacle* against these venomous heresies, wrought our Saviour many a marvellous miracle.—[SIR T. MORE, "A Treatise on the Passion Works," yr. 1357.

At last his body (Sir Thomas Overbury's) was almost come by use of poisons to the state that Mithridates' body was by the use of treacle and preservatives, that the force of the poisons was blunted upon him.—[BACON, "Charge against Robert, Earl of Somerset."

The saints' experiences' help them to a sovereign treacle made of the scorpion's own flesh (which they through Christ have slain), and that hath a virtue above all other to expel the venom of Satan's temptations from the heart.—[GURNALL, "The Christian in Complete Armour." C. ix, p. 2.

Treacle; a physical composition, made of vipers and other ingredients.—[PHILLIPS, "The new World of Words."

Allow me to add another illustra-

tion that I have come across in St. Francis de Sales:

"It seems to me that even as in the medicine *Iberiaca* one must let the serpent proportion be small; if there are equal parts of serpent and dove, I should not care to trust the compound. Meseems the serpent would overpower the dove rather than the other way."

One Andromaches, physician to the Emperor Nero, is said to have invented it, adding to the famous *Mithridatium* the dried flesh of vipers. Both retained their place in the London Pharmacopœia to 1771, and in Paris to 1837. *Theriaca* contains 72 ingredients; hence the allusion to the small proportion of the serpent.

JOHN CAREY.

GRUMBLING.

"I'm only having a bit of a grumble, you need not mind what I say." This is a sentence very often heard in our homes, much too often, I am afraid; for somehow we don't think there is much harm in a "bit of grumble," as long as people know it is only that, and nothing worse. We are not out of temper. Oh! dear dear no, nothing so bad as that. We should be ashamed of that. We are only soothing our feelings by a bit of a grumble, and then we shall feel better, and set to work again with fresh spirit.

Perhaps we shall. I hope so, but that remains to be seen. Grumbling is a thing which grows stronger with use, like all other things, and if it is not actual discontent, may very soon grow into it. A little cheerfulness might rest us just as much, and help to cure us of a fault which is English all over. For English people are famous for their grumbling, and if they can't find anything else there is