

242 *Order of Examination of the Home-District School.*

It must progress, our native authors shine,
 For gorgeous prose, and pathos most divine.
 With substantives we adjectives confound,
 We change the meaning but retain the sound.
 A band appear of great Scriblerus race,
 Who "guess" a language we shall soon possess.
 That haughty Britain's sons shall understand
 No better than the talk of Negroland.
 Instead of that ungracious verb possess,
 We use "improve," a word of nobler race ;
 We say not, I possess a pig or dog,
 But rather I "improve" a slut or hog.
 That old word "navigable," so complex,
 That no grammarian it might longer vex,
 Is chang'd to many words more capable,
Canoeable, scowable, boatable, shippable ;
 For "brook," we borrow "creek" with anxious care,
 For "wilderness," we use "creations bare."
 A Congress member of a northern State,
 Produc'd this sentence pithy, deep, and neat.
 "Lands our executive should populate,
 "Which rivers boatable peninsulate,
 "And quickly too, they ought to enterprize,
 "To settle bare creations, if they're wise ;
 "To advocate the endeavour I profess,
 "Through every grade, and cause it to progress."
 This spoke the curious orator, and sure,
 No English ear such language could endure ;
 Their pride, "you may depend," such words disdain ;
 But what care we, their anger's all in vain,
 These reasons given by so great a man,
 Convinc'd me of the justness of his plan,
 And as our master's always out of School,
 Becomes our friend, and lays aside his rule.
 I gladly call'd these reasons to explain,
 He smil'd, and slowly taking up his pen
 Thus wrote : Thou hast in words great darkness found,
 And learn'd to sink in sense and rise in sound,
 Columbia's new fledg'd language brings to mind,
 A cant in which the friends of fashion join'd
 And first the word "immensely" charm'd the top ;
 All other words seem'd for a season gone.
 Then all things were immensely large or small,
Immensely short, or else immensely tall ;
Immensely sour, or then immensely sweet,
Immensely ugly, or immensely neat ;
Immensely clear, or then immensely dull,
Immensely thin, or else immensely full :
 This word to monstrous, quickly yielded place,
 In which the ton perceiv'd abundant grace.
 Of monstrous amiable the world spoke,
 'Twas monstrous wise, or else a monstrous joke ;
 This steeple's monstrous high or monstrous low,
 That fellow's monstrous quick, or monstrous slow.