

"Whajer say?" when he means "What did you say?" and "Where de go?" instead of "Where did he go?"

Sometimes you hear, "ficcood" instead of "If I could;" "Wilfercan" instead of "I will if I can;" and "Howjerknow?" for "How do you know?"

And have you never heard "m—m" instead of "yes," and "ni—ni" instead of "no"?

Let me give you a short conversation I overheard the other day, between two pupils of our High School, and see if you never heard anything similar to it.

"Warejergo lasnight?"

"Hadder skate."

"Jerfind th'ice hard'n'good?"

"Yes hard'nough."

"Jer goerlone?"

"No; Bill'n Joe wenterlong."

"Howlate jerstay?"

"Pastate."

"Lemmeknow wenyergoagin, woncher? I wantergo'n'show yer howterskate."

"H—m, ficcoodn't skate better'n you I'd sellout'n'quit."

"Well we'll tryeranc 'n'seefyercau."

Here they took different streets, and their

conversation ceased. These boys write their compositions grammatically, and might use good language and speak it distinctly if they would try. But they have got into this careless way of speaking, and make no effort to get out of it. Whenever they try to speak correctly they have to grope their way along slowly, and their expression seems forced or cramped, as though it were hard work for them to talk.

Almost every one talks enough to keep well in practice, and those who try to speak correctly on every occasion soon find that the practice makes it just as easy for them to use the best language at their command as to use the most common.

Try it, boys, and see if you cannot make some improvement. Keep a close watch over your conversation, and when you discover any habitual error, drop it and substitute the correct word, phrase, or mode of expression. You will find that it will sound much better, and be just as easily spoken. And, as you get older and enter a different and wider circle of society, you can have acquired for yourself a command of language and a correctness of expression of which you need not be ashamed.—*Christian at Work.*

## THE PROVINCIAL CONVENTION.

THE Twenty-third Annual Convention of the Ontario Teachers' Association began August the 14th, at 11 a.m., in the amphitheatre of the Education Department. The chair was taken by the President of the association, Mr. A. MacMurchy, of the Toronto Collegiate Institute. The proceedings were opened by the reading of a portion of the Scriptures by Mr. White, followed by prayer, in which Mr. Brebner of Sarnia led.

The Secretary then read a number of communications which he had received. They were as follows:—From Prof. Marshall, of Queen's University, Kingston, who wrote from Paris, France, to say that it would be impossible for him to carry out his intention of delivering an address to the association;

from Rev. Provost Body, of Trinity College, regretting that he would be unable to address the association, as he would be in England at the time of the meeting; from William Houston, M.A., asking the association to devote a half-hour for the discussion of the subject of spelling reform; from Prof. Goldwin Smith, saying that as he would not be in the city at the time of the meeting he would not be able to deliver an address, as requested by the committee of the association.

The following is the order of business on Tuesday:—At 11.30 a.m. the Treasurer, Mr. W. J. Hendry, of Toronto, presented his annual report. It showed that the total receipts of the association were: \$650.06, and