

almost always with the conjunction "that," never with "as." The mistake is so general as to be sometimes used by well educated persons.

"I don't feel like going out to-day." In such phrases the use of the word "like" is altogether improper. The meaning intended to be conveyed is, "I don't feel *inclined* to go out to-day." In idiomatic expressions we commonly use words in a very peculiar meaning, thus we say "how do you do," meaning "in what state is your health." This is sanctioned by acknowledged usage, and these idiomatic phrases are often exceedingly terse and powerful, particularly when used in colloquial language; the words also though peculiarly used are very vigorous and comprehensive in their meaning, but such phrases as, "I don't feel *like* going out," "I don't feel *like* sleeping," &c., have in reality no meaning, and not being recognized should not be used. The word "like" is used equally improperly in such phrases as, "there are none here *like* we have in Toronto;" "as" should be used instead of "like."

"I don't want to," "I don't intend to," &c. The impropriety here consists in omitting the word after "to," as "I don't want to go," "I don't intend to go," &c. "To go," (and the same form in other verbs) is so invariably looked upon as one word (the infinitive mood) that it seems improper to omit a part of it. This mode of expression is not sanctioned by good authorities.

*I ain't.* "This expression is given merely as an example of the numerous contractions used in rapid speaking to enable the flow of our words to keep up with the flow of our ideas, by facilitating the utterance of difficult combinations of letters. Thus "ain't" is a contraction of "am not," which is rapidly pronounced "am'nt," and then "ain't." In the same way "cannot" becomes "can't;" "will not" becomes "won't," &c. The use of these contractions has become so general in conversation, that they are in a measure tolerated among the best speakers; in elegant composition however they should be carefully avoided, and the word "ain't" is at all times objectionable. Numerous other contractions might be given of which the same remarks might be made.