

adverb, &c., and repeat the long lists of words when *mis*, *un*, &c., are to be prefixed, even when the prefix does not, as in Greek and Micmac, change the form of either the principal word, or the affix. Because the affix is *glued* or *soldered* to the word (if I may use *English* instead of Greek and Latin), and the two parts form but a single word, it seems more necessary to put them all in.

Now, if this be proper in English, where no change is made, in either the principal word or the prefix or suffix, nor any union vowel required, it would certainly seem to be much more necessary where all the portions of the compound have to be adjusted for the sake of euphony, and a union vowel, not always one and the same, continually inserted between the parts, so that they may fit harmoniously. The advice and suggestions of the learned are earnestly solicited on this point. If the work is done at all, should it not be done *well*, though a trifle be added to the cost thereby?

One more remark. When people are told that the number of words in an Indian language mounts up to forty thousand or so, they sometimes open their eyes with astonishment, and enquire if all these words are really in use? Now that would be a difficult point to determine, but probably they are not used often, many of them, and some of them never by any one Indian. But what then? are there not scores of words in every dictionary of every language that scores of people never use, and cannot understand? A few hundred words answer for all the common purposes of life; a few *thousands* satisfy the poet and the historian. Still, you find them on every page of the Dictionary, and I may say on every page of the Almanack, and they form an integral part of the language. An Indian may never have had occasion to say, "*The bone of a bumble-bee*," nor "*The fat of a pismire*." But you just join the suffix that means *bone* and *fat* when united to the name of a living thing, but does not mean *bone* or *fat* nor anything else in any other situation, and see if he does not understand the word instantly. He might admire your ideas of entomology, but he would not deny that you had used correct Indian, so far as words are concerned.

But I mention this as an extreme case. There is no need of pushing etymology and peculiar idioms to excess. Every word should be thoroughly tested by actual use or diligent enquiry before it takes its place in the dictionary, and that, with the means now afforded, can be easily done, an opportunity which, if now neglected, may never return.