



### A Little Lesson in Grammar.

WHAT TO SAY INSTEAD OF WHAT IS NOT TO BE SAID.

CARELESS habits of speech are among the prominent faults of our young people, even those young people who have advantages of schools and intelligent home surroundings. Recognizing this, the professor of English literature at Wellesley College has prepared a list of "words, phrases and expressions to be avoided, from which the young (and old) will receive many serviceable hints :

- Guess, for suppose or think.
- Fix, for arrange or prepare
- Ride and drive, interchangeably. (Americanism.)
- Real, as an adverb, in expressions; real good, for really or very good, etc.
- Some or any, in an adverbial sense; e. g., "I have studied some," for somewhat. "I have not studied any," for at all.
- Some ten days, for about ten days.
- Not as I know, for not that I know.
- Storms, for it rains or snows moderately.
- Try an experiment, for make an experiment.
- Singular subject with contracted plural verb; e. g., "She don't skate well."
- Plural pronoun with singular antecedent: "Every man or woman should do their duty;" or, "If you look any one straight in the face they will flinch."
- Expect, for suspect.
- First-rate, as an adverb.
- Nice, indiscriminately. (Real nice may be doubly faulty.)
- Had rather, for would rather.
- Had better, for would better.
- Right away, for immediately.
- Party, for person.
- Promise, for assure.
- Posted, for informed.
- Post-graduate, for graduate.
- Depot, for station.
- Stopping, for staying.
- Try and do, for try to do.
- Try and go, for try to go.
- Cunning, for small, dainty.
- Cute, for acute.
- Funny, for odd or unusual.
- Above, for foregoing, more than or beyond.
- Does it look good enough, for well enough.
- Somebody else's, for somebody's else.
- Like I do, for as I do.
- Not as good as, for not so good as.
- Feel badly, for feel bad.
- Feel good, for feel well.
- Between seven, for among seven.
- Seldom or ever, for seldom if ever, or seldom or never.
- Taste and smell of, when used transitively.

Illustration: We taste a dish which tastes of pepper.

### The Busy Ants.

MANY of our boys and girls have, no doubt, often wondered why the ants are such rapid and continuous travelers, always on the go, and always going, seemingly for a purpose. So they do. Let us watch them. Here they are, on the rose basket. What for? Their breakfast, perhaps. Just watch them; see how they tickle the aphides, or green fly, with the antennae, in order to make them yield a saccharine liquid, of which ants are very fond.

This is a systematic work with them; they farm out insects of various kinds to feed upon, and as systematically as a farmer does his stock. In the greenhouse they take the young scale insects—a most troublesome greenhouse pest—and plant them out regularly on the leaves, always choosing such leaves as are the most difficult to clean; and when the insects are of full size, the ants extract a juice from them with as much regularity as a farmer

milks his cows. It is very interesting to watch them at their work, as one can easily do in the garden, where nearly every plant has some insect enemy, which, in its turn, has an enemy that destroys.

The ant is proverbial for its industry; its ingenuity is quite as remarkable, and its habits most singular. Did you ever examine an ant-hill—a subterranean city, closely populated? In this little city three classes of ants dwell—the females, the males, and the common people, which have no sex. These do all the work of the community; the males and females perform no labor.

The homes of the ant are constructed with much art; little galleries terminate, at intervals, in more extensive ones, supported by pillars. All this is done with earth and a slime which they secrete, by means of which the working ants make a mortar.

When the female ants are ready to deposit their eggs, they wander about through their palace and let fall at hazard their little eggs; the workers pick them up and gather them together in heaps in the places which separate the galleries. The larvae are soon hatched, and are not long before they spin themselves little cocoons; when the moment comes for their issuing from their confinement, the workers tear the cocoons, and thus facilitate the operation; then they carefully extend and smooth the

wings of the males and the females. From these eggs are born, in fact, not only ants of both sexes, but the workers also, which have no wings. During several days food is brought to the newly born, and then they are allowed to go out to commence life's work for themselves.

### A Child's Self-Respect.

ONCE given a reputation to live up to, a character to maintain, and the child's pride comes to the rescue, his sense of honor is cultivated to the point of giving birth to truthfulness, and thenceforward noblesse oblige, until at last he seizes on the real beauty and value of truth, upon which truth itself obliges. And on the other hand, if you would make the little liar a big liar, and eternally a liar, then constantly confront him with the fact that he is a liar already. He will have small motive for telling the truth, since all the world believes and knows that he is a liar; he sees that he would not be credited if he told the truth; he will not have the name without the game, and his fate, which the tact and watchfulness of which we have spoken might have made very different, is early sealed.

