

cently *transpired* in France," he used a word without comprehending its meaning, and outraged his mother tongue. We have not yet come to the barbarism of writing, "An accident *transpired* in the streets yesterday," but there is no knowing how soon the superfine penny-a-liner may accustom us to the solecism.

Among the recent vulgarisms that have crept into the press is an abuse of the suffix *dom*, from the Teutonic *stam*, as legitimately used in *kingdom*, *Christendom*, *popedom*, *czardom*, *dukedom*, *earldom*, *wisdom*, *martyrdom*, *freedom*, etc. The word, however, does not admit of unlimited extension at the hands either of neologists or of would-be-comic writers.

"Officialdom is strong in France, in Germany and in Russia."—*Globe*. Still worse than officialdom, is woman-dom for the female sex, and *trouserdom*, as used by a writer in the *Pall Mall Gazette*. October 27, 1882, for the male sex—as the wearers of trousers. But as Mademoiselle Thérèse used to sing in the *cafés chantants* of Paris, "Rien n'est sacré pour un sapeur," so nothing is sacred to the grinning sciolists who aspire to be facetious.

The much-abused system of competitive examinations for public employment, which threatens to reduce all our young men to one dead level of Chinese mediocrity, has enriched the already too copious vocabulary of literary slang by two words: to *cram*, and to *coach*. *Cram* is a term of disparagement, but to *coach* is considered legitimate, as in the following advertisement: "A professor of elocution and dramatic art, privately *coaches* amateurs in acting or reading." (The *coach* or the man who *coaches*, is sometimes irreverently but not inappropriately called a *grinder*.)

Persuasion is a word that, besides its ordinary and familiar meaning—which it is unnecessary to set forth—

has come to signify the particular belief of any class of dissenters from the doctrines or observances of the Church of Rome. Thus, it is correct to say that a man is of the "Protestant persuasion," the "Methodist persuasion," the "Baptist persuasion," the "Presbyterian persuasion," etc.; but it is not correct to say that he is of the "Jewish persuasion," the "Mahomedan persuasion," the "Buddhist persuasion," etc., because these are not sects of any greater faiths or religions. But the prevalence of the word in religious matters has led, in the newspapers, to a wholly unjustifiable abuse of it, by the illiterate vulgar, or by the semi-educated vulgar, who are more to blame for their ignorance than the utterly ignorant. Thus, a reporter for the daily press, when examined as a witness, was asked what was his business or profession—and replied that he was of the *reportorial persuasion*! just as, if an ass could speak, he might reply, if a similar question were put to him, that he was "of the asinine persuasion."

Equally, or even more detestable is the use of the word as applied to sex. In a letter from West Hampstead, in the *Daily Telegraph* of September 8, 1882, in reference to the alarm created by a recent burglary; the writer recommends every householder to discharge his revolver whenever he shall find any unauthorized person of the "*male persuasion* on his premises during the hours of darkness." More flagrant still is the use of the word applied to a girl or woman, as a "friend of the *female persuasion*." "One of the *female persuasion*, if she be a cook in a good family, is an awfully good friend of the unmarried policeman," is the statement of a would-be-comic writer in the columns of a would-be-comic periodical.

The loss of a good old English word *clepe*, which long ago dropped out of the language, and which signi-