

### Correct Grammar is Hallmark of Refinement

#### Intricacies of "Seen" and "Saw," "Did" and "Done," Present an Ever perplexing Problem to Too Many

Two girls attending the Public School were discussing school problems the other day, and one of them remarked to the other, "Well, I don't see the good one bit of us having to learn grammar!" The other, not noticing the grammatical blunder right there, rejoined, "Nor me."

There are those girls, though at school for years, could see the error which a lack of grammar had led them into. Probably 95 per cent. of us are like them; we never perceive the good of grammar, and we go on all through life making the plainest grammatical blunders through ignorance.

Perhaps if a more interesting method of teaching grammar was adopted it would not seem such a hopeless task for either teacher or children. Perhaps if more frequently a "grammar bee" was held the results would be to create greater interest amongst the children, who could in that way be taught the errors to avoid and what is right to say in ordinary language.

"Little as children can see of value in grammar," remarked a prominent educationist. "I should like to impress upon them that it means much to them in after life to be able to use proper language, and know that they are using it. Such a knowledge not only makes them pleasant and attractive speakers, but the use of our mother tongue is an index to our bringing up and often our social position. Not always the latter, of course, for persons occupying good social positions are sometimes the worst offenders, their blunders arising either from carelessness or that want of knowledge of grammar that our children should be guarded against."

Of one gentleman it is recorded that when he was elected to the chairmanship of an influential body he nearly scandalized every one of his colleagues at the close of each meeting by asking, "Are there any more business?"

"There is, of course, no excuse except lack of knowing better for any one making such a break. There are, however, many phrases in general use that the teachers should guard the children against, such as the use of "it is me," "between you and I," etc., which, however they have attained general use, are not likely to attain literary standing. The children must be made to understand that there are certain phrases indicative of a person's breeding. It is true that the standard is somewhat nebulous; that even "the best usage" is transitory and conventional; our language, like our morals, being still in the process of evolution. Nevertheless, the use of certain phrases stands as evidence of social training.

"The children need to be impressed with the fact that the individual is more instinctively placed by his language than by his clothes. Some take decided objection even to the person who, in response to an 'in' introduction, says, 'Pleased to meet you.' Even more objectionable, in the eyes—or to the ears—of the well bred, is the use of the term 'lady-friend' or 'gentleman-friend.' 'Faints' instead of 'fainters,' is regarded as vulgarism. To preface a remark with 'say,' by way of attracting attention is as bad as the universal use of 'Hello' as a salutation. 'Ain't' is a word belonging to chil-

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### Efficiency of Prussianism

Continued from Page Thirteen

A patient horse, hitched to a delivery wagon, has been standing among the people. Little children came to pat and stroke his nose. He seemed the mildest of creatures. Then came the report about the matter. An officious policeman began to shove the people back. His tones were angry, his manner far from genteel.

Horse Nips the Copper

As he passed the horse the creature seemed to bridle. Its meekness vanished, and, throwing up its head, it gave the officer a vicious nip. A little cheer broke from the crowd. The horse was not so human. It had so expressed its indignation. The officer was furious. He spat upon the animal and hit him in the face. In a moment children were crowding around again, patting the horse's nose. The creature's meekness returned. But the crowd was angry. Some women shook their fists.

Then a whisper passed along the line. Many potatoes had arrived. A huge wagon full stood outside. Only this word prevented a riot. The horse was furious. He spat upon the animal and hit him in the face. In a moment children were crowding around again, patting the horse's nose. The creature's meekness returned. But the crowd was angry. Some women shook their fists.

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government into the American navy. The treatment good for convicts is infinitely more valuable for the ordinary citizen. If the American fleet really self-governing its efficiency will make the English navy look like a child.

France Wonder Nation

The wonder of the world is not Germany or England but France. Germany in years of preparation built up an army and laid in food and munitions for two years. But the two years is up and the nation begins to crack and crumble. France on the other hand, in spite of the strain, is still active and vividly alive. Her people, undrilled in obedience, but strong in personal efficiency, have stood together as one man.

Slowly the German people are disintegrating. In March or April, if not before, unless securing the food supply in Roumania, but off that day, the potatoes will give out and there will be riots. When this occurs if Lloyd-George continues to make speeches about crushing Germany many the German militarists by these speeches may drive the people together in a campaign of desperation and horror. Belgians will be seized and nursed, submarine terrorism multiplied.

But if a hand of sympathy is extended to the German worker he will riot not against mankind but against his own government. Militarism will be overthrown. Now is the critical moment. Ought we not to aid the awakened, struggling German in his fight against imperialism?

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**Simple Christmas**  
Festive Extravagance And Thought for Defenders

London, Dec. 9.—(Correspondence of The Associated Press) "Wish you a simple Christmas," to be the Christmas greeting. England this year. In other words, denial—but a self-denial free from dimness—is to be the keynote of the country's coming Yuletide season. Festive extravagance, riotous indulgence, and thoughtless detachment are to give place to simplicity, thankfulness and thoughts for the wounded, the sufferers, and the soldiers and sailors who are fighting for their country.

The advent of the good diet and the realization by the British people that after two years of war there is urgent need for the handling of their food stores, is responsible for the simplicity of the coming festival of joy and thanksgiving. The two previous Christmas evenings in the war were celebrated according to tradition—feasting and festivity and general relaxation; and of charity also. But conditions have altered, the stern realities of war have been brought ever closer to the people, so that the necessity for greater self-denial is no longer apparent. Economy and retrenchment will be the watchword of Christmas.

Already President Runciman, the Board of Trade has told the hotel proprietors that they will have to eliminate gala dinners and the usual entertainments. Some of the leading hotels had already prepared elaborate dinners for Christmas at New Year's at from \$5 to \$10 a plate. Still others had applied for an extension of the closing hours until 2 or 3 o'clock in the morning just as they do in New York and other big cities of the United States.

But the Liquor Control Board put its foot down on this. This body which regulates the hours at which drinking may be indulged in set its face sternly against all extension of hours. It refused to even tilt the clock in the restricted hours of the afternoon and 5.30 to 9 in the evening will remain undisturbed during the Christmas tide.

To say that this refusal of the authorities to "listen to reason" as the hotelmen and caterers put it, is a disappointing is putting it mildly, and the result was frequent meetings at which appeals were drawn up, but all to no avail. Mr. Runciman told the hotelmen that would do it for them and the Liquor Control Board said something about taking away licenses and shutting up the places just as they sometimes threaten in American cities. The hotelmen were told that it was not a question whether or not they were set a good example to others, but an actual matter of food shortages. Hotel and restaurant patrons must eat less and more cheaply. If they do not, others will go hungry.

Housewives have also planned simpler Christmas dinner. The price of meats, turkeys, hams, the ingredients for plum puddings and mince pies, the raisins and nuts are sufficiently alarming, and the possibility

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