

Overdone Expressions.

London *Tit-Bits* recently offered a prize for the best contribution on hackneyed terms used in writing and speaking, and here is the winning paper; it purports to be a law against the use of worn-out expressions:

Be it enacted by the King's most excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Long-Suffering and Sorely Afflicted Reading Public, and by the Authority of the same, as follows:

1. Any journalist, litterateur, novelist, penny-aliner, or any other ink-slinger, who, after the passing of this Act, shall write, print, or publish, or cause to be written, printed, or published, any of the following or similar hackneyed or over-used phrases—that is to say, in alluding to the awful mystery of death shall refer to “that bourn from whence no traveller returns;” or, in mentioning a deceased person, shall write of him or her as having “shuffled off this mortal coil;” or, shall designate the condition of the unmarried as a “state of single blessedness,” or speak of a newly married couple as “the happy pair,” or of a wife as “the better half;” or shall deny by implication an indisputable scientific fact by asserting the possibility of a person's being “conspicuous by his absence;” or shall write with profane pen the expressions, “a sight for the gods,” or “a sight to make angels weep;” or, in reference to physical attributes or peculiarities, shall use any of the following expressions: “the bated breath,” “the human form divine,” “eagle glance,” “magnetic gaze,” “dilated nostrils,” “willowy form,” “arch smile,” “daintily-gloved hand,” “flowing locks,” “golden tresses,” “delicately tinted lips,” “the inner man.”

Or shall speak of the “popular president,” “the courteous general manager,” “the genial secretary,” “the charming hostess,” “a few well chosen words,” “the succulent bivalve,” “the psychological moment,” “so near, yet so far,” “last but not least,” “a dull, sickening thud,” “his own inimitable style,” “old Sol,” “the gentle light of the moon,” “a cool million,” or shall use any similar hackneyed expressions, such person shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and, being thereof convicted by public opinion, shall be compelled to pay away his salary to the Home for Old Jokes, and the delinquent shall offer an ample apology to the public, and agree never again to infringe the provisions of this Act.

2. This Act may be cited as the Literary Black List Act, 1903.

Give the grammatical construction of each italicized word in the following sentences:

1. He struck the man *dead*.
2. He found the man *dead*.
3. The general ordered the soldiers to *march*.
4. The general ordered water *to drink*.
5. He went *home*.
6. The man is *here*.
7. The boy is *safe*.
8. The girl is *present*.
9. She arrived *safe*.
10. I bought a dozen *sheep*.
11. I bought *twelve* sheep.
12. The fire burns *low*.
13. He stands *six feet* tall.
14. The tree stands *six feet* above the track.—
Western Teacher.

The German government has directed that the study of English shall be an optional study in the public schools of Germany. This will displace France as the preferred foreign language. The new policy, which has been under discussion for years, was adopted largely as the result of a memorial presented by the Dresden Schoolmasters' Association. The memorial stated that English was now more useful in business than French, as it is the most widely used civilized language in the world. It also says that English is preferable because it opens up a literature which is superior to the French, and because, being more nearly allied to the German, it is easier to learn.

A little Rochester girl drew the picture of a dog and cat on her slate, and calling her mother's attention to it, said: “A cat oughtn't to have but four legs; but I drew it with six, so she could run away from the dog.”

How many of the teachers who teach in the country schools let the children use the crumbs in their lunch boxes, for the purpose of coaxing juncos, whitecaps, kingbirds, and other friends of the feathered tribe, and while they pick the crumbs, tell the children about their habits?

Husband (on his wedding tour)—I want rooms for myself and wife.

Hotel Clerk—Suite?

Husband—Of course she is—perfectly lovely; the sweetest girl in the world.

“Age before beauty,” said Falstaff, as he attempted to enter before the prince. “No! Grace before meat,” said the prince gently, as he pushed him from his path.”—*Life.*