

I might have said "established errors" in English, but this would have been saying too much;—it would have implied that there were things to be deplored and amended. All this we give up when we adopt the designation *Errata Recepta*. We at once confess them to be what they are.

Moreover I had the less scruple in venturing on this title, because the two words *Errata Recepta*—besides conveying briefly a particular shade of meaning—are both of them almost as familiar to us as English, the one being seen appended, unfortunately, to most printed books; and the other being associated in the well-known phrase by which the common edition of the Greek Testament is indicated, viz., the *Textus Receptus*.

Some of these peculiar usages in our written and spoken English are the astonishment of foreign scholars. They would puzzle many natives, were they suddenly called upon for the *rationale* of them. We have been taught them in our childhood, as so many dogmas, and we use them without thought. We pass them about like well known coin, of which we have no need to read the inscription; we trace them on our luxurious note-papers and in our account books, and their familiar look is no more suggestive of farther research than the ancient but handy quill perhaps, with which we have written them down.

*Errata Recepta* arrange themselves into numerous classes. (1) There are those that have arisen from the modifications of form in letters and numerical symbols. (2) There are some that appear in the shape of contractions and abbreviations. (3) There are many that have arisen from the Anglicising of foreign words, especially French, Italian, and German. (4) There are some that spring from the vernacularising of unfamiliar expressions—forcing them to say something that shall, at least, seem to convey an idea. (5) Then we have *errata recepta* which arise from wrong etymologies and from misprints. (6) There are some that spring from grammatical misconceptions and confusion in logic, as where the general is put for the special, and the special for the general. (7) Some are variations in the significance of terms, through the lapse of time. (8) We have *errata recepta* in the quantity or time of vowels in the syllables of derived words. (9) We have *errata recepta* in the nomenclature of persons, places, and things. (10) We have *errata recepta* in regard to the drift of certain popular proverbs or sayings.