

etc. "To the excellencies of this institution most of our public men are indebted for their *abilities*" (?) (Editorial defending U. C. College). Or the following from a Public School Inspector's Reports: "Such trustees *perish* (ruin) the best interests of their schools." "All these things should be taken into *deliberation*" (consideration). "Parents require to have this idea *transmuted* (?) into their minds."

II. Coming now to the second quality we mentioned, viz., Clearness, we may notice that the corresponding faults are *ambiguity* and *obscurity*. Of these the former is generally due to some one of the following causes:—(1) The use of a word that has different meanings, as: "You don't seem to like anything that I *do*." "Proceeding a little further they discovered *certain* indications of the presence of Indians." "He *observed* that the attendance was smaller than usual." "I can't find *one* of my books." "I did not promise to accept *any* offer you might make." "A respectable widow *wants* washing; apply at No. —." "Common sense, Mr. Chairman, is all that I *want*." (2) Ellipses, as: "They have no more control over him *than others*." "I believe he likes her *as well as Mary*." "Twelve years ago he came to this town with only one shirt to his back, and now he is worth *thousands*!" "This fact is patent, that without due examination, or (with) useless because ineffective examination, the book has been sanctioned by the Department." "The *woodshed and contents* of Mr. A., Otonabee, was burned last Sunday morning." (3) Careless use of pronouns, especially *he*, *it*, *they*, and *which*, as: "He told his friend that if *he* did not feel better in half-an-hour, *he* thought *he* had better return." "Old English poetry was very different then from what *it* is

now" (Brooke's English Literature Primer). "The party of Union and Progress *is* as superior to the Grits in patriotism and political morality as *they* are in constitutional practice and common sense." "There was a tavern next door *which* was a great injury to the value of the property." (4) Misplacement of words or clauses: "A few *minutes* are required after giving the order, to ensure a hot breakfast, *which might otherwise seem an unnecessary delay*" (Hotel bill of fare). "He was taking a view from *a window* of the cathedral of Lichfield, *in which* a party of Royalists had intrenched themselves." "Metal types were now introduced, which before this had been made of wood." "There has not been a single factory closed on account of the N. P." "One of our town sportsmen shot fifteen brace of partridge, *along with a friend*, on Saturday afternoon last." Occasionally the insertion of an unnecessary word may lead to absurdity, if not ambiguity, as: "Unfortunately, before it could be destroyed the rabid animal bit a child of Mr. A., the blacksmith, and several *other* dogs."

*Obscurity*.—This may be due (1) to a want of simplicity in the language. Passing by such cases as that of Dr. Johnson, who is said to have defined a *net* as "a reticulated substance with interstices between the intersections," I may remark that this is a common failing of young and ambitious writers, who are apt to forget that, as Swinton says, "large words will not increase the size of small thoughts," and that volume of sound will not compensate for lack of sense. Reporters, too, are frequent offenders in this respect, often, no doubt, from a natural desire to vary their expressions, but more frequently, perhaps, from a wish to produce a more striking or humorous effect. Thus, in the hands of the reporter, such simple phrases as "begin," "met an old