



"As a man is known by his company, so a man's company may be known by his manner of expressing himself."—SWIFT.

THE use of slang is so prevalent at the present time, that Dean Swift, did he adhere to his outspoken conviction, would perhaps receive a wrong impression of our friends, as judged by their conversation, for catchwords and slang expressions are not confined to schoolboys and the uneducated. They flow freely from the lips of men of all classes, and women, too, which is to be the more regretted. As Anthony Hope says of one of his characters, that he did his best (fortunately unsuccessfully), to be taken for his groom in both language and appearance, so, evidently, a large number of people prefer to appear both illiterate and illbred, by cultivating the modes of expression ostensibly created in the far-famed and possibly maligned "Bov-ery," or at least by people whose ideas and grammar are as faulty as their manners.

Undoubtedly, some vulgarisms are wonderfully expressive, and need not be debarred. The pedantic creature, who, with raised eyebrows, feigns absolute ignorance of the meaning of some word, possibly not considered in the dictionary, but popular on account of its peculiar fitness, is eminently more irritating than improving. But the use of slang among women should not be tolerated under any circumstances. Yet, as we know, it is a common practice, and there are girls who should know better who would as soon be behind the times in the way of expressing themselves as they would wear a jacket or hat of a past season's fashion. And, in listening to their chatter, one is inclined to wonder by whom they have been brought up, or with what sorts and conditions of people have they associated; while it is not improbable they have had every advantage of education and surroundings, and this is merely an affectation, as stupid and in as bad taste as affectation in any form must needs be.

EVEN among college men, though more excusable, it becomes very tiresome. Most of their slang is the product of their Alma Mater, and is possibly, to them, fraught with numerous pleasant and amusing recollections. But for outsiders it carries no interest or import, and the graduate who persists in interlarding his speech with college slang is apt to impress his listeners with the idea that, as far as cultivation goes, he is somewhat lacking.

A freedom from slang does not necessitate, as an alternative, stilted or pompous sentences. To express ourselves naturally by the use of simple words is far more easily recognized as the result of refinement than the habitual use of long and carefully picked phrases. And it is here that many make a fatal mistake. "Like all persons to whom refinement is an acquired taste, . . . they were shocked at simplicity, and regarded as vulgar what was merely natural," is Miss Thorneycroft Fowler's trite summing up of this shortcoming, and it could not be better illustrated. Still, perhaps, it shows a desire for improvement rather than retrogression, and as such is meritorious. No undue stand is taken by affirming unhesitatingly that no lady, or, let us say, gentlewoman, would stoop to introduce into her conversation even the mildest of oaths, or what is described as "bad language." And when slang in its worst forms is voted as heinous an offence, society may be complimented, and that sincerely, upon a step very perceptibly in the right direction.

THE engagement is announced of Miss Victoria McCallum, youngest daughter of Dr. McCallum, to Mr. Del. Shepherd, of the Molsons Bank, and youngest son of the late Mr. R. W. Shepherd.

Miss Grace Smith, who has spent the summer in Montreal, visiting her father, Mr. Oliver Smith, Sherbrooke street, left this week for her home in Devonshire.

MRS. N. T. RIELLE left last week by ss. Arawa, for England, where she will spend the winter.

Mr. Algernon Reid-Taylor is also among the departures for England this week.

THE marriage of Miss Naomi Molson, second daughter of Mr. J. T. Molson, to Mr. Claude B. Robbin, of the Bank of Montreal, in Chicago, has been arranged to take place in the first week of November.

MR. R. SINCLAIR, son of Mr. Sinclair, of the Elder-Dempster Line, left last week for England to continue his course at Cambridge.

From all accounts, the dance given at Government House, Toronto, by Miss Mowat, last week, must have been a great success. Though some are of an opposite opinion, the generality of people will agree that nothing is pleasanter than a private dance, when the necessary adjuncts of space, a good floor and good music are obtainable. Public balls may be all very well, but they are not to be compared to a well-ordered, well-arranged entertainment in the house of a friend, where everyone knows everyone else.

IT WAS indeed unfortunate that the weather should have been so very unsettled and dreary during the week of the Woodbine race meeting in Toronto. After all, no matter how man proposes, it goes for nothing when the weather disposes.

AMONG the well known Englishmen at the Place Viger last week were Mr. E. F. G. Hatch, M. P., and Lord Henry Somerset.

Mr. Gilbert Parker, the novelist, whom Canadians are proud to own as a fellow-countryman, was in town last week on his way to the United States.

MR. AND MRS. WANKLYN and family have returned to town from their summer house at Ste. Anne de Bellevue.

Master Archibald Ramsay, accompanied by his brother, Master Robert Ramsay, left this week for England, where they will remain at school.

Mrs. Henry Joseph has returned from Kingston, where she was visiting Dr. and Mrs. Walkem.

MISS HOLBROOKE, Boston, Mass., is visiting Miss Archibald, Durocher street.

Mrs. Harry Abbott left last week for England, where she will join her mother, Mrs. P. S. Stevenson, and spend the winter abroad.

Mrs. Newman, Brooklyn, spent last week in Montreal, the guest of Mrs. N. W. Trenholme, "Rosemount," Westmount.

AS A building alone, the Royal Victoria College is an addition to Montreal of which the citizens are justly proud, but the acquisition of such a warden as Miss Onkeley promises to be is not less a subject of congratulation. Throughout, this talented lady's career seems to have been one of wonderful success, and there is no reason to assume that her efforts here will not meet with reward.

From what we hear, the appointment of Miss Liechtenstein is a singularly happy one, also. There are enough music-lovers in Montreal to insure against the decline of that art, but, at the same time, the introduction of so well-qualified an