

SHAKSPERE AND SLANG.

Having recently been asked by several persons whether Shakspeare uses the word *thin* as a "slang term"—for the information of my inquirers, I answer—NO—. He seldom uses the word and nearly always as the opposite to *thick*. Upon reference to Mary Cowden Clarke's valuable concordance to the works of our Poet I find *thin* quoted twenty-two times; often in the sense of *scanty, slim and slender*; sometimes of *insubstantial*, and sometimes as the opposite to *strong*. A few examples will suffice:—

Falstaff, who was given to "drinking of old sack," says, in allusion to some demure boys:—"Thin drink doth so overcool their blood, and making many fish-meals, that they fall into a kind of male green sickness"—(2nd Henry IV. Act IV., Sec. 3), and, in the same speech, he adds:—"If I had a thousand sons, the first principle I would teach them, should be—to forswear *thin* potatoes, and to addict themselves to sack."

King Henry VI. says:—

"The shepherd's homely curds,  
His cold *thin* drink out of his leather bottle,  
His wonted sleep under a fresh tree's shade,  
All which secure and sweetly he enjoys  
Is far beyond a prince's delicacies,  
His viands sparkling in a golden cup,  
His body couched in a curious bed,  
When care, mistrust, and treason wait on him."

Mercutio, in *Romeo and Juliet*, says:—"Dreams are the children of an idle brain,

Begot of nothing but vain fantasy:  
Which is as *thin* of substance as the air,  
And mere inconstant than the air."

Prospero, in *The Tempest*, says to Miranda:—

"These our actors,  
As I foretold you, were all spirits, and  
Are melted into air, into *thin* air."

The Ghost, in *Hamlet*, alluding to the "cursed hebenon" which was poured into the porches of his ears, says:

"It doth posset  
And eard, like eager droppings into milk  
The *thin* and wholesome blood."

Lady Macbeth, in her inexorable determination of purpose, exclaims:—

"Come, you spirits  
That tend on mortal thoughts, unsex me here,  
And fill me, from the crown to the toe, top-full  
Of direst cruelty! make *thick* my blood," &c.

I commend my inquirers to the passages in which the word *thin* occurs; they may obtain, possibly, a copy of Clarke's Concordance, in the library of the Mechanics' Institute; if not, mine is at their service. They will not find one of the quoted passages used in the vulgar sense, expressive of doubtful excuse, any more than they will find "very like a whale" used in the sense of cockney apprentices do when they doubt some extravagant story related to them by their fellows; though unfortunately, many low comedians to whom the part of Polonius is entrusted or assigned, are guilty of emphasising the phrase in such a manner that the "groundlings" may imagine that Hamlet is vulgarly "chaffing" the senile and cunning Lord Chamberlain, which to do would be inconsistent with the contempt he has for the old courtier, whom he wishes "the doors to be shut upon, that he may play the fool nowhere but in his own house."

Some of Shakspeare's faults are of a kind as peculiar as his excellencies; he has been abused for his puns and conceits and for his occasional coarseness, but I do not think he can be charged with using "slang" according to the modern interpretation of the word, or that he ever degraded his mighty powers with such a vulgarity.

THOS. D. KING.

ECHOES FROM PARIS.

AMONGST the thirty-six Republicans returned to the Chamber of Senators of France, is one shorthand writer—M. Lejache, stenographer-in-chief of the Chamber.

THE Directory bonnet is a leading Parisian novelty. It is high above the forehead, narrow on the sides, the strings cover the ears, tying under the chin, and the trimmings are a mixture of feathers, fur, ribbon and ornaments. The whole affair is frightfully ugly, but is the rage at the moment in the French capital.

THE sculptor P., of Paris, is an exceedingly forgetful man. He very often writes letters to people, but generally omits to send them. One of his friends recently left for Italy. "I shall be sure to write to you," said the sculptor; "but where shall I address my letters?" "Oh!" replied the other, "as you usually do—*Poche* restante."

THERE is a favourite drawing-room game in fashion, which is very amusing; the name of some prominent individual is chosen, and the company is invited to write what would be the most suitable gift of the season to present to the celebrity. Many of the replies are very witty—the political ones especially, and one leading Republican lady is printing her "collection," to form an album for distribution among her friends.

NEW kid gloves for full-dress occasions reach almost to the elbow, are buttoned by nine but-

tons and have three rows of inch-wide Valenciennes lace inserted round the arm between kid bands of the same width; the top of the glove is then finished with a killed frill of lace. The finest white undressed kid gloves are trimmed in this way. Black kid gloves have also insertions of Valenciennes lace. These black gloves are considered especially stylish for the opera, and are thought to make the hand look small.

MANY capital devices have this year been adopted by shopkeepers to draw attention to their windows, but the best is a representation of the Berlin Congress. The several plenipotentiaries are represented by small figures, each a good likeness of the original. These are seated round a horse-shoe Congress table, and by ingenious mechanism the automata open their mouths, as if talking, move the papers about on the table, turn towards each other for the exchange of conversation, and so on. Lord Beaconsfield, in gorgeous array, is represented as talking freely to Prince Bismarck.

IN this festive season, the rag-pickers of the capital have held their annual dinner, where 1,200 members of both sexes marched in procession with the father of the guild—a patriarchal gentleman in a respectable black suit—leading the way, to the selected inn. What was most remarkable, was the personal cleanliness and Sunday look about the pickers-up of unconsidered trifles. The members of the craft have to be registered—theirs is the only institution that escaped being taxed after the war; some are very honest, and rarely is any article—a silver fork or spoon, that may have found its way into the daily dust-bin—detained.

WITHOUT a single *sou* being demanded from them the poor of Paris are invited to enter the bar of a chemist's shop, drink their cup of warm palatable *tisane*, well prepared and duly sugared, in a comfortably-heated *salle*, which they can re-enter if so it please them on their return home in the evening. The example set by the kindly-hearted chemist in question might be followed advantageously by others. Infusion of lime-tree leaves, violets, glycerine, or lichen cost intrinsically little; but the *ouvrier*, or labourer, suffering from chest or throat complaints, finds very often some difficulty in preparing the *tisane* in his sixth-floor cabinet, in the hotel garni. Therefore the bar *de santé* is not a useless innovation.

ECHOES FROM LONDON.

AT the personal suggestion of the Queen, it has been resolved to add the names of the men to the Obelisk, who lost their lives in the attempt to rescue the crew of the *Cleopatra* during the storm in the Bay of Biscay, in October, 1877.

INSTEAD of the stupid fashion-cuts, the other day an Oxford street firm sent round the carte-de-visite of some of the prettiest young ladies of their staff, attired in their new "Pamela cap" and "Point Duchesse Gilet."

THE end of the year has been thought a fitting time for making a calculation as to who has made the most peers, the late Premier or the present one. The result of the calculation is to give Mr. Gladstone a majority of three. In 1868 Mr. Disraeli had made nine peers, and during his present tenure of office he has added twenty-six others—total, thirty-five. From 1868 to 1874, Mr. Gladstone caused thirty-eight elevations to the House of Lords to be made.

THE Crystal Palace will in all probability be very shortly affiliated to the University of Cambridge as a learned body, capable of giving degrees to its students in art and science. Nearly 500 ladies are in its classes, which are rapidly becoming the best in the world, while the engineering classes are the largest in the metropolis. The water-colour department, under Mr. Goodall, is this year of such excellence as to have attracted the special attention of the University, and already negotiations are in a very forward state for making Sydenham a branch of the Cambridge collegiate system.

ON the death recently of an old gentleman, who owned an estate in Hants and another in Forfarshire, his executors discovered a remarkable collection of antiquities in the Hampshire mansion. In addition to some dessert services of the earliest old Worcester china, and many yards of splendid old lace, there is a complete set (over one hundred in number) of the original etchings of Rembrandt's pictures. These last may be said to be priceless, since only four complete sets exist in the world, one being in the British Museum. These treasures were quite an unexpected find, the old gentleman being well known for his penurious habits.

THE Polar Expedition of Captain Cheyne will not sail till 1880, owing to the want of necessary funds. Sir James Watson has asked the Captain to "forbear" the promotion of the scheme in Scotland, as, owing to the distress caused by the failure of the Glasgow Bank, the offer of Glasgow to bear one-third of the cost cannot be continued. Meanwhile Captain Templar has promised to furnish Captain Cheyne with a balloon free of cost, and the two commanders propose to start for Paris to lecture in

aid of the expedition. They intend going over in the balloon, to practically illustrate the theory of aerial navigation, and to show how easily the North Pole can be dropped upon by the same means.

AN enterprising firm of publishers have just hit upon a new use for illustrated cards which are so popular at this season of the year. They are embellished with dainty little coloured pictures and suggestive poetry, and are intended to be of service to those who either have not the inclination or the time to put their thoughts to paper in an original form. For instance, the person who has borrowed a book for an unconscionable time receives a card representing a gentleman weeping over an empty book-case, and a suggestion in verse that the missing volume may be returned. Another card relates to an umbrella, and the lines entitled "A Lament" ought to cause remorse to the most inveterate borrower, and induce him to restore the article in question without a moment's delay. The young lady with a mass of correspondence quite beyond her control is furnished with a card ready to hand, the lines on it commencing, "Yours to hand, contents I note, nothing fresh since last I wrote," and so on. The idea thus originated seems capable of wide extension.

IT goes much "against the grain" of an Englishman to learn that American methods are superior to those of his own country, but what can we think when American institutions are introduced into such a place as Cambridge University? In many "Colleges" in America the students are taught to work with the lathe, the hammer, the file, the plane, and the chisel, and a few help to support themselves by the products of their industry. Professor James Stuart has established a mechanical laboratory at Cambridge, and has engaged several skilled mechanics as teachers. The workshop is fitted with several lathes, drilling, planing, and shaping machines, and will probably soon supply the scientific workers at the University with all the apparatus they require. A "workshop" has been in existence for some years at King's College, and many of our most accomplished amateurs owe their proficiency to the practical training while at "school." Perhaps, by and by, a Cambridge undergraduate will take as much pride in making a screw bolt and nut as he would now in stroking the Varsity crew to victory.

BRELOQUES POUR LAMES.

THE woman who wears a French-heeled shoe should employ a French corn doctor.

THE fashion in England, set by Lord Carington, is for afternoon marriages.

GOOD society doesn't start on its bridal tour till a fortnight after marriage.

OF the New York mothers who bore children last year, 442 were over 50 years of age.

A BOSTON doctor says that ladies who wear cotton stockings through the winter furnish the first crop of burials in the spring.

THE girls ought not to grumble at the cold weather. They should think of the poor firemen whose hoze freeze up solid.

"We old maids," remarked Miss Stibbens, "love cats because we have no husbands, and cats are almost as treacherous as men."

THIS is the time for a young man with a girl. The papers are filled with advertisements of genuine diamond rings for one dollar.

THE Dubuque *Telegraph* has a female city editor who stays up till two o'clock in the morning, smokes a briar-root pipe and writes faster than any two men on the paper.

IT is estimated that the late snow-blockade delayed over 2,000 marriages and cost 14 barrels of tears. Love may laugh at locksmiths, but he can't at snow-banks.

AT a marriage which recently took place, the bride and bridegroom, bridesmaid and groomsmen, had only one eye each, and the horse which conveyed the party to church was in a similar condition.

NEW Parlor Maid: "Here's a letter, ma'am, if you please!" New Mistress: "Pray, Mary, are you not accustomed to see letters handed on a tray?" New Parlor Maid: "Yes, ma'am; but I didn't know you was!"

ANNIE Moore's gone away to get married, And her loss we deeply deplore; 'Mong hosts of friends here long she tarried; But she'll never come back Annie Moore.

THE saddest time, we think, in a young man's life is when his girl writes to him that she wants her old letters, and that he can have his fifty-cent diamond ear-rings upon application.

"FIRST person, 'I love,' is grammar, and that is the reason so many husbands love their wives. Why? Because the wife is the first person to kindle the morning fire at this season of the year.

A STINGY husband accounted for all the blame of the lawlessness of his children in company by saying his wife always gave them their own way. "Poor things! it's all I have to give them," was her prompt reply.

MRS. SHODDY'S views are interesting to those who are thinking about keeping a carriage. She says she has thought it all over, and come to the conclusion that brooches are almost too large; that these "ere coupons are too shut up, but that a nice, stylish pony phantom seems to be just the thing.

A TRANCE medium reports having had a vision of the future world. He didn't see any winged angels or hear any harps playing, but there were lots of sharp-featured young ladies working out algebraic problems on blackboards, and he concludes that his vision must have been confined to the Massachusetts departments.

"HAVE you Brown Eyes?" inquired a charming brunette, as she raised her soft and melting orbs to a clerk, whose optics are of the particular shade described, in a music store yesterday. He blushed modestly as he replied: "Yes, Miss, you know I have, but of what possible interest can that be to you?" "It's the music I want," she softly responded.

"POOR Herbert. How I wish you did not have to slave so at that horrible store from morning till night!" said his wife, as, with a fond caress, she seated herself on her husband's knee, and gently stroked the auburn locks from his sloping brow. And the grave, stern man of business understood her at once, and answered: "Well, Susie, what is it—a bonnet, or what? Go light on me, for money is scarce'n ever."

ARTISTIC.

BRUMIDI, the fresco painter, who has been at work for the past twelve years decorating the Capitol at Washington, is the same Brumidi who decorated the walls of St. Peter's, in Rome, and who did the decoration in the palace of the Czar of Russia, as well as other important work elsewhere. The old gentleman has become so feeble that he is now unable to climb up the steps of the rotunda, where he is painting a record of the country, which will, if completed, reach entirely around the rotunda.

MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC.

NEIL BURGESS has had a play written for him by C. B. Lewis, of the *Detroit Free Press*. It is called *Bijah*.

ANNETTE ESSIPOFF plays twenty-five concertos and 300 other pianoforte works of importance from memory.

A HANDSOME monument, composed of red polished granite, has recently been erected over the tomb of the late Mile. Trejeus, at Kausal Green Cemetery, London.

CARL FORMES is teaching music in San Francisco. His friends and pupils have given a concert to celebrate the fortieth anniversary of his appearance on the lyric stage.

A SON of the late Thomas Francis Meagher, the well known Irish orator, hopes to pin a reputation on the stage. His Christian names are identical with those of his father.

COMMENT from a Cincinnati papaper on the last string quartette concert at the college: "The performers came upon the stage in full dress; some of the auditors were similarly caparisoned."

IT is said that trouble has arisen in the camp of the Ward-Barrymore combination. On one occasion recently Signor Mageroni and Barrymore came to blows. The company will break up after the close of its Washington engagement.

AN excursion barge is being built in New York which is to be used as a floating theatre capable of seating 800 persons in the parquette and the gallery. The chief reliance of the floating theatre will be in a safe evasion of the Sunday law.

A YOUNG actor named Byron, known to the profession as the Toy Tragedian, was expelled from the Union Square Theatre under the belief by the manager that he was about to memorize the Banker's Daughter and produce it elsewhere, as he has already done with the Celebrated Case.

EMMA ABBOTT will not assume the role of Violetta, in "Traviata," but appears as Marguerite, in "Faust," and defines her position by saying that she regards the former as bad without an excuse or a redeeming feature, while she makes much allowance in Marguerite, because the devil had a hand in her undoing.

AIMEE swore that she would never sing again under Maurice Grau's management, and Maurice Grau swore that he would not have anything to do with Aimee. That was at the end of last season. Both have become calmer and wiser, and Aimee will open in New York at the Park, on Easter Monday, under the management of Maurice Grau.

Oh, the snow-shovel, the useful snow-shovel, Welcome alike at the palace and bovel; Scraping out paths at the first dawn of light; Rattling across the bleak sidewalks at night;

Raking, Scraping, What in the duvel Would we do without you, oh! homely snow-shovel!

THE arrangements for the performances of the Comédie Française Company in London during the months of June and July will be as follows:—The sum of £200 will be guaranteed nightly by the manager. Thirty francs per day will be given for expenses to each actor, and the ladies will receive an additional five francs per day. The balance will be equally divided between the *sociétaires* on their return to Paris.

THE French Minister of Fine Arts is considering a plan for a complete remodelling of the Paris Conservatory, located on the Rue Bergers. M. Charles Garnier, the architect of the Grand Opera, has submitted a plan for a magnificent new building, to cost no less than 8,000,000 francs. It is to occupy the site of the old building, and to retain the present concert rooms, which, though small, old-fashioned, and ungrainly, is perfect acoustically, and has such a wealth of clustering reminiscences that it cannot be spared.

A correspondent of the Paris *Figaro*, writing from Hamburg, and referring to Mme. Adelina Patti, remarks on her activity in the part of *Rosina*, in the "Barbieri," as disapproving the alarming rumour of the affection she was said to be suffering from in her knee. This rumour, says the *Figaro*, only served to show how many admirers the prima donna still has, for since the report went forth she is said to have received no less than 10,000 letters or telegrams, offering remedies or expressing sympathy.

A CARD.

To all who are suffering from the errors and indiscretions of youth, nervous weakness, early decay, loss of manhood, &c., I will send a recipe that will cure you, FREE OF CHARGE. This great remedy was discovered by a missionary in South America. Send a self-addressed envelope to the REV. JOSEPH T. INMAN, Station D, Bible House, New York City.