

why did it not hold its ground? And again, "distaste," one of the words that has gone down. Barrow writes, "It is our duty to be continually looking inward upon ourselves, observing what it is that we love and readily embrace, what we *distaste* and presently reject." The latest use we know of it is by the Yorkshire local preacher, "There are three things that I *distaste*—Pride, Flattery, and Hypocrisy." Why does "coarse" sound uncouth in the refined Addison's lines—

"We envy not the warmer clime that lies
In ten degrees of more indulgent skies;
Nor at the coarseness of our heaven repine,
Though o'er our heads the frozen Pleiads shine."

Why, on the other hand, do epithets and illustrations that to Dr. Johnson's ear debase a noble passage, accommodate themselves so easily to our modern taste? "The dunest smoke of hell," "The keen knife," "The blanket of the dark," expressions which alternately wake his contempt, change his terror into aversion, and excite his risibility. Some words, indeed, are so obviously made for a state or temper of the national mind, that when the temper changes the word must go out of fashion or fall into contempt. Such is "genteel"—

"So mild, so good, so gracious, so genteel."

There was a time, we must conclude, when no pathos was felt in pairing the constituents of happiness thus:—

"For that which makes our life delightful prove,
Is a genteel sufficiency and love."

As a maxim it stands the test of time, and, indeed, was never more universally accepted; nor could the truth be more tersely and exactly put; but our ear expects to be humoured by more pretentious epithets—vague as regards the question of income, but going deeper into the nature of things; "Genteel" is superficial. For something the same reason the fashion of language toward scenery—especially Alpine scenery—has entirely changed. Once it was surveyed simply with the eye of a traveller, to whom it might well seem "rugged," "horrid," "inhospitable;" now when difficulties of transit are overcome, or hailed for the difficulties' sake, description expatiates in the whole gamut of rapture from tender and lovely to sublime. In every point we aim more at the emotional; at reaching the heart of things. Our authoresses find great and strange wonderful mediums for awakening these emotions. In our ordinary conversation we admit words now which were once thought above the tone of common talk; and we may any day hear, in a party collected for purposes of mere relaxation, words which forbid such occasions. "Equally with *bosom*," he says, "are prescribed the words *affliction*, *guilt*, *penitence*, *remorse*, from the ordinary current of conversation among mere acquaintances, because they touch chords too impassioned and profound for harmonizing with the key in which the mere social civilities of life are exchanged." Strength is the general aim—we do not say effect—in the talk of the present day. Our slang and current epithets all show this. The youth of every period has had, no doubt, a list of epithets as short and as unmeaning, for passing judgments on persons and things, but not necessarily inspired by the same intention. It strikes us now that whatever inclination there exists toward variety lies on the side of vituperation. Loathing is more eloquent than liking. It was not always so: "Heavenly," "pretty," "fine," "sweet," were once as lavishly misapplied as the terrors of our present custom. Formerly, when a speaker wanted to convey his meaning by mere brute strength, a familiar objection too readily presented itself; leaving fancy some range when he set himself to seek secular terms of disparagement. Happily swearing is out of fashion (as far as we are here concerned), but it is impossible not to feel how certain words—a certain word—come into general use, which once would have been inadmissible, supplies a need, fills an irksome void left by its profane predecessor. "Beastly," which we hesitate to write, is not wrong; but it is rude, and imparts to a speaker some of the blind satisfaction of an oath, without the sin.—*Blackwood's Magazine*.

in large bold letters, so as to catch the eye at once, without wearying the sight in distinguishing it from the rest of the text. The other feature is the insertion of the various spellings of each word—including the English and Websterian method. Our former objection to Webster's Dictionary was chiefly based on the attempt to make the Websterian mode of spelling disputed words the standard in Canada. In the present edition this objection has been removed. We will now proceed to notice the various features of this admirable Dictionary.

1. *Etymology*.—Dr. Webster, in his great work, made many important and original contributions to the science of English etymology; but in the thirty years which have elapsed since he essentially completed his labours, very great progress has been made in this department of human knowledge—especially in Germany. The publishers, therefore, secured the services of Dr. C. A. F. Mahn, of Berlin. As the result of these labours, the etymological portion of the present edition, we believe, will be found to be a most important contribution to English philology.

2. *A Brief History of the English Language*, by Professor Hadley, of Yale College.—This will be found to be an excellent summary, and will be of great value to all who have occasion to teach or study the structure and growth of our mother-tongue.

3. *The Vocabulary*.—Dr. Webster's original work, as stated in his Preface, embraced a vocabulary of from 70,000 to 80,000 words. The "Pictorial Edition" of 1859 increased that number to 99,798 words, while this present revision of Webster contains upwards of 114,000 words.

4. *Definitions*.—In this, Dr. Webster's aim was to give a thorough knowledge of the root meaning of every word.

5. *Special Departments*.—Definitions of words relating to special subjects have been revised by eminent men in the several professions. Among these are (a) Captain Craighill, lately a Professor in the United States Military Academy at West Point, by whom the *Military Words and Terms* have been carefully revised and perfected, with the addition of many new terms. Captain Craighill also furnished over fifty drawings or copies for the Pictorial Illustrations of Military terms. (b) Hon. J. C. Perkins, recently of the Massachusetts Bench, and a well-known editor of various law books, by whom the *Legal Terms* have been revised with great care. (c) Prof. J. D. Dana, of Yale College, who has treated of the terms in *Geology, Mineralogy, Natural History*, &c., and whose name, it will be allowed, is hardly second to any other in those departments. (d) Professor R. Cresson Stiles, having charge of the *Medical* department. (e) A. L. Holley, Esq., of New York, a distinguished civil engineer, *Mechanics and Engineering*. (f) Dr. Lowell Mason and John L. Dwight, Esq., who have revised the definitions of words or terms in *Music*. Others might be mentioned.

6. *Orthography*.—A valuable table is furnished in the Introduction, presenting several hundred important words in regard to which a differing orthography is sometimes employed; and, where current usage recognises more than one, the various forms are usually given in their appropriate places in the Vocabulary, with the necessary cross-references.

7. *Pronunciation*.—Special attention has been given in the present revision to this department. In this edition the *pronunciation of the words of the English language*, as used in this country, Great Britain and her colonies, is more correctly and fully given than in former editions. Several new diacritical marks have been employed, as will be seen by an inspection of the Key, recognising some distinctions not before marked by Dr. Webster and others. Another distinguishing and important feature is the marking of the secondary accent, where it occurs, with a lighter stroke, and thus indicating the distinction from the primary. The "Synopsis of Words differently Pronounced" exhibits at one view the pronunciation of a particular word as given by eight of the most eminent modern orthoëpists. The list embraces upwards of thirteen hundred important words, in regard to which there has been diversity of opinion and usage.

8. *Synonyms*.—The valuable feature of Synonyms, occupying seventy-two pages by themselves in the "Pictorial Edition," is here incorporated into the body of the work, each article under its appropriate word. In addition to this, the present edition furnishes, preceding each of the articles, a list of synonymous words, without explanation. Like lists are presented under several hundred other words through the Dictionary.

9. *Pictorial Illustrations*.—These illustrations, over 3,000 in number, have been selected and engraved with great care.

10. *Tables*.—These are, (a) *The Explanatory and Pronouncing Vocabulary of the Names of noted Fictitious Persons, Places, etc.* (b) *Pronouncing Vocabulary of Scripture Proper Names.* (c) *Pronouncing Vocabulary of Greek and Latin Proper Names.* (d) *Etymological Vocabulary of Modern Geographical Names.* (e) *Pronouncing Vocabulary of Modern Geographical and Biographical Names.* (f) *Pronouncing Vocabulary of Common English Christian Names of Men and Women, with their signification, &c.* (g) *Quotations, Words, Phrases, Proverbs, &c., from the Greek, the Latin, and Modern Foreign Languages.* (h) *Abbreviations and Contractions used in Writing and Printing.* (i) *Arbitrary Signs used in Writing and Printing.* (j) *Ancient, Foreign, and Remarkable Alphabets.*

We have now given a summary of the chief features of this most valuable Dictionary, and would strongly recommend it to our readers.

Webster's National Pictorial Dictionary.

This valuable dictionary extends to 1040 pages octavo, and has 600 engravings on wood. The work is really a most useful and excellent dictionary. It is published by G. & C. Merriam, Springfield, Mass., and is an admirable abridgment of the royal octavo edition, which we have just noticed. It is in compact, handy size, and contains all the practically useful parts of the larger work.

III. Papers on Practical Education.

1. FREE-HAND DRAWING.

The State of New York has determined upon opening a School in each City of the State, in which free-hand drawing will be taught without charge.



WEBSTER'S UNABRIDGED AND PICTORIAL ROYAL QUARTO DICTIONARY.—We have had this admirable Dictionary on our table for some months, but have been prevented until now from giving it the notice in our *Journal* which we had desired to do. In its new and revised state, we conceive it to be one of the most important and valuable dictionaries ever

published. The present edition extends to 1,840 royal quarto pages, and is illustrated with over 3,000 appropriate wood engravings. In addition to other features of this great work (to which we will presently refer), we are much pleased to notice two important improvements in it as compared with the former edition. The first is that each word in the Dictionary is printed