

ZEKE TRIMBLE ON THE DEPARTURE OF THE MILITARY.

DEAR OLD DI,—

Last week, our debatin society, wich is entirely komposed of men who hev not bin into thee sity Kounsil, & who hev never attendid any Sinnod meetins, diskussed thee followin subjec, to wit: "Can our soshul fabrick withstand thee shock consequenshal upon thee removal from amongst us of thee military?" and lastly, "what will bekum of our yung ladees now?"

Thee furst speeker wuz a yung man of brite & intelligint apperance & in apperent good helth, who, as he afterwards acknowledged, hed bin let go 4 times by a similar number of yung ladees, on thee occashun of a new regiment arrivin into our sity:

"Friends & fellow sitizens," sez hee, "i am fur thee affirmative side of thee question wich is to bee debated here this evenin. There is much to bee sed on both sides. But thee grate fact remanes, thee military are nearly awl gone and thee horses wich once drawd thee gray Battery around are now dispersed to thee 4 winds. A gap is left in our midst. No more shall wee hear thee squeekin bagpipes,"—Heer a Skotchman rose to a questun of privilege. He sed he "took excepshun to thee term 'squeekin,' this bein a pursonal insult to every Skotchman present." I agreed with him & kollt thee honorable speeker to order. He apolygised & sed, "hee did'nt mean 'squeekin,' except in its flowery sense," wich apolygy bein accepted, he went on as follos:—

"No more shall wee hear thee pibroch's melojus sound, a tooting thro our streets, nor contemplate from afar, thee hawty hiland piper a blawin fit to bust, and struttin proudly on to thee tune so often heard in Lucknow and elsewhere on Ingy's coral strand, namely, 'Jenny, dinna yee hear thee slogan,'—thee afosed piper a carryin himself as if hee wuz thee Kurnel of thee regiment and thee Kurnel wuz only playin 2d fiddle onto his horse. Never shall wee again see so meny bare legs into our streets in warm wether unless thee fashuns change and dri goods bekum more expensive." Heer i notisd sum of thee other members who were a goin to speek, a gittin impashunt, & sez i to thee honorable speeker, "plees imitate Alderman Rodden & konfine yourself to thee subjec matter in dispute." This recaldt thee orratur to his senses.

Sez hee, "wee must look on this grate question from 2 points of vew. Furstly, their influence on thee yung ladees & what will they do fur husbands now; & secondly, how air our yung men affected by thee presents of thee Queen's servants, (as they style thairselves into thee privet theatrikles.) Thee handsum yung men dressed in scarlet array, who hev landid on our shores from old England, air beluvud bi our yung beuties on akount of their red clothes & thee peculiarly melojus manner in wich they speek thee English langwidge. Sum vulgar fellows call ir thee "haw haw" style. It is said to be borrowd from thee dulset tone, so familiar to those who have wandered in thee flowery preinks of Covent Garden about 4 o'clock in thee morning, when thee ear is fascynated with thee chorus of kostermongers' chargers. This tone is closely imitated bi sum of our yung men, but thee genuine tone can only bee executed bi thee imported animal. Kittel drums were introuced bi thee military & hev bin thee sorce of much matrimony. In this konnexshun i may state that thee present depressed state of thee dri goods traid is owin to thee departure of thee military, as thee gurls air konvinced that their old dresses air good enuff to ketch sivilians with."

Heer "time" was kollt & thee honorable speeker sat down, greeted bi thee harty cheers of thee awjence.

Thee 2d speeker heer arose & sez hee, "i hev no sympathy with enny yung Kanajun, bee hee male or female, who murders thee English langwidge, bi speeking as if hee had a hot potato in his throat. Thee lady who does this, bee shee thee farest of her sex, (& wee hev sum fare ones into our kuntry,) is not wothy to bee kollt a Kanajun. Thair is much in favor of thee military. Thair are sum fust rate chaps amongst thair ranks, & thee proporshun of sensible men to bee found tharein, is about as grate as in enny other bizness & in the Rile Artillery a good deal more. Thee fact is, i wonder thare aint more of them spoilt in thee 'piping times of pees,' & gentlemen," sez thee speeker, "who kin get up privet theatrikles with thee perfushun of men-karacters to hold up thee curtains & make things agreeable, like thee gorgeous sons of Mars? Long may thay withstand thee assaults of such pusillanimous kusses as George Francis Train & Zachariah Chandler, thee blowers of this kontynent." Heer thee onorable gentleman got excited, & forgot thee rest of his speech, & after a pawse of 15 minnits, as he had'nt then rekovred, i suggested hee shoold set down, & set he did akordingly. After waitin 14 hours fur sumbody to make further remarks on this grate questun, thee awjence kollt upon mee to sum up thee debate.

"Gentlemen," sez i, "when i marrid mi Betsy thare wuz no ofissurs in thee kuntry,—that is to say, where i livd,—konsequently, i hev no hard feelins against thee military for steppin in with thare red coats & robbin me of a welthy gurl, wich i wuz just a goin to be marrid to." Sez i, "for such a numerous bddy of men thee soldjers air well behavd & thay hev proved themselves good citizens. It is troo our yung ladees hev turnd up thair noses at fellos in traid, but this will not last long; kommerse will vindykate herself in thee course of time. Thare is one konsolashun,—girls who have the military fever, are generally no great shakes of hows-keepers,—indeed, very few of thee yung ladees nowadays, konsider hows-keeping woman's speer. On thee whole, thee ofissurs & military, generally, hev allus shown thairselves red-dy to make things pleasant, & i

am sorry thay air levin us. Thare exploits into this kuntry hev konsisted in toboganing, private theeatrykles, fust rate dancing, good music, & marryin most of our pretty gurls & takin them to thee East and West Ingys. But thare air sum left still & more a growin up. My Evangeliney has not been taken away. Shee remanes & will be happy to marry any noble marquis who kums out to hunt in the Nor West, & isn't so partikular as his ancestors wer." Sez i, in konklusshun, "i am sorry thee military air a levin us, & altho thay hev never invited mee into thare messes, i think wee air much indebted to them & to thee old kuntry wich sent them. God bless them awl & long may shee wave! But i furgot thee most important questun. 'What will bekum of our yung ladees now?' Why thay must put off thare kaytoozelum airs & kummense to bow again to thee yung dri goods & hardware clerks, wich thay hev hitherto treeted so scornfully. Thare air wurse husbands than dri goods & hardware chaps. Hevin sung "Thee gurl i left behind me," thee meetin broke up,—everyone feelin that wee had reseved much instrukshun from this pleasant debate.

Yours trooly,

ZEKE TRIMBLE.

WORDS AND BIRDS.

Etymology, which may be regarded as the chemistry of words, is a branch of philology that has for many years engaged the attention of the Cynic. No study, in his opinion, can possibly be more fascinating. No records of humanity, no relics or curiosities, can excite more surprise and delight than the treasures that are embalmed in the amber of words. Language has been truthfully characterized as fossil poetry, fossil history, fossil ethics; and the geology of words is so far from being a dull, dry science, that Horne Tooke entitled his labours in this field of study, "Diversions." Mr. Wedgwood's *Dictionary of English Etymology* has been called "a repertory of the fairy tales of linguistic science;" and it has been said that "no intelligent man were to be pitied who should find himself shut up on a rainy day, in a lonely house, in the dreariest part of Salisbury Plain, with no other means of recreation than that which this work could afford him." To many, however, whom DIOGENES sincerely pities, this poetry, these diversions, and these fairy tales, are wholly devoid of interest. Like Sir Andrew McFarline in Lever's story of *Reland Cashel*, they say to the successful word-stalker:—"It is all very ingenious, but I maun say, I see no necessity to be always looking to whare a word gat his birth, parentage, or eddication." Nevertheless, as the Cynic is in an etymological humor, and as his first object is to amuse himself, his second, to instruct as well as to amuse some of his readers, he here transcribes from his note book a few remarks, that owe their origin to one word of an advertisement in a Montreal journal. This notice, which has appeared daily for more than a fortnight, is as follows:

LOST, ON SUNDAY LAST, A PARROQUITE (she bird.) Any one finding the same, and returning it to No. — Shakspere Terrace, University Street, will be rewarded.

Now, there are few words in the English language that are allowed by Lexicographers to be spelt in so many ways as the name of the bird advertised. But DIOGENES has never before seen the spelling, *parroquite*. Nor does he believe that it is correct. In the last edition of Webster's Dictionary, (which as regards orthography and etymology may fairly be said to be Webster's no longer,) *parouquet* is the spelling adopted. At the same time it is stated that the word is also written, *paroket*, *parrakeet*, and *perroquet*. Richardson gives us *parroquet* and *parraquite*; and these six modes of spelling the word are the only ones found in any of the other best-known Dictionaries. There is, however, a seventh way used by Shakspere. In 1 Part, Henry IV. Act. II. sc. 3, Lady Percy says to Hotspur:

"Come, come, you *parroquite*, answer me
Directly to this question that I ask."

The advertiser of the lost "she-bird," prefers to spell her, *parroquite*; and this makes an eighth way.

Before DIOGENES endeavours to fix the derivation, and, subsequently, the spelling of the word, it may be noted that it occurs in Mat. Prior's poem of "The Dove," when Chloë in a passion declares to Cupid:

"I would not give my *parroquet*
For all the doves that ever flew."

With respect to its derivation, the following opinions have been held by eminent scholars. Dr. Mahn, (of Berlin,) the Etymological editor of Webster; Worcester; Richardson; Ogilvie, and the editor of Chamber's Dictionary, besides Hensleigh Wedgwood and others, follow Ménage in deriving it from *Pierrot* or *Perrot*, a diminutive of *Pierre*, Peter. The French *perroquet*, however, (as Wedgwood remarks,) is more properly derived from the Spanish *Perico*, a dim. of *Pedro*, or rather from *Peiquito*, a further diminutive, which signifies both *Peterkin* and *parrot*.

It must be confest that this etymology is not hastily to be rejected. Much may be urged in its defence. Certain birds and quadrupeds, on account of their familiarity with man, have received among many nations