

accordance with the genius of our language, and with a due regard to analogy and euphony, I hold that it is our duty as teachers to refuse to lend the weight of our approval and influence to these, unless they come to us with the sanction of some recognized authority. Especially is this necessary when *slang* is so common, and seemingly so infectious; and when even the unwieldy dimensions of "Webster's Unabridged" do not suffice to prevent "enterprising reporters" from trying to incorporate such mongrel monsters as "shootest," "skatorial," "burglarize," into our vocabulary. It was my original intention to dwell at some length on the subject of *slang*, but as another of our High School masters has already dealt with it in an interesting and instructive article in the January number of the EDUCATIONAL MONTHLY, I shall pass on to the last class of offences against Purity.

Improprieties, or the use of recognized words in wrong senses, are, I think, when not coming under the head of *slang*, generally due to one or other of the following causes:—

(1) Confounding words of similar sound; as, "It is impossible to *predicate* (predict) the result of such a contest." "His story did, certainly, seem rather *incredulous* (incredible)." "To *impute* (impugn) a man's veracity." "An *equitable* (equable) distribution of heat." "*Expatriating* (expiating) his crimes on the gallows." "*Depreciating* (deprecating) unfriendly criticism." "He found them in want of the commonest *necessities* (necessaries) of life." He announced that he would not offer any *fictional* (fictitious) opposition to the Government." (2) Want of attention to the distinction between words of similar or related meaning, as: "He seemed disposed to question the *veracity* (truth) of my statements." "She did not seem to be *conscious* (aware) of his

presence." "Tomatoes are said to be very *healthy* (wholesome) food." "I could not *persuade* (convince) him that he was wrong." "How are the new regulations likely to *effect* (affect) your school?" "In this way you will be more *liable* (likely) to get at the truth." "I offered to *loan* (lend) him my book." "That isn't the way the last teacher *learned* (taught) us to do it." "I *expect* (suppose) you had a pretty lively time at the meeting last night." "There could not have been *less* (fewer) than a dozen boys in the room at the time." "I never saw such a *quantity* (number) of sheep at a show before." "Apples are not likely to be so *plenty* (plentiful) this season." "His remarks on the proper *observation* (observance) of the Sabbath were listened to with great attention." "The attempt was soon found to be *impracticable* (hopeless or unsuccessful)." "You may *esteem* (consider) yourself fortunate to escape so easily." "Had this been done, there is little doubt that their *object* (attempt) would have been successful." "A verb must agree with its *nominative* (subject) in," etc. "He *allowed* (admitted) that he might have been present." "A *couple* of (two) accidents happened in that way last week." "Dr. M. then took the platform, and *demonstrated* (discussed, or dealt with) the subject of Algebra for over an hour." "In the meantime events were *transpiring*" (occurring or happening). "After several hours had *transpired*" (elapsed). "To rob a man of his *character*" (reputation). Others are less easily accounted for, as: "He has *enjoyed* (had) very poor health lately." "The whole family *enjoy* (have) a rather bad reputation in the community." "He says he never saw the letter till it appeared in print, a *fact* (statement) which I can prove to be false." "With such facilities for *filling up the ranks* (filling the places) of inefficient teachers,"