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mention that all
seem to be decayed

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be the same—only stated in different ways.
But a little reflection will shew that this is
not so.

If, for example, in H.M. navy, the signal of
456 asked a neighbouring ship for a tub, or a
kind of shot, or a piece of rope, we should have
the first canon violated; while, if gunpowder
could be called for by some two or three signals—
450 or 326 or 125—we should have the second
condition not observed. Now this was just the
condition of things in the navy before the time
of Captain Marryat, the well-known novelist.
The code of signals then in use had grown up by
tradition; it was a mass of confusion; there was
no principle in it; and blunders and even mis-
fortunes were the result. But Captain Marryat
took it in hand, introduced order and self-con-
sistency into the notation and the practice of it;
and I believe that his system is still at work in
the British navy.

We expect, and the young child also naturally
expects to find the signs written or printed on
paper observe these two simple conditions. Every
child expects—and his expectations on this head
are both 'natural' and reasonable—that the
form of a word shall change when the sound
changes; and that the sound shall remain the
same with the same form. How are these natural
and reasonable expectations met? **N** o is *no*;
add a **w**, and it is *now*. So far we are on firm
ground. But put a **k** in front of *now*; and it is
no again. Take the symbol **ow**, and add **c** to it,