

the sound of any word in these languages, and are ready to go beyond the shadow of a doubt that Cicero was not Cicero at all but Kikero; the English Professors, however, do not deign to notice such matters as English pronunciation, although they can talk by the hour about the archaic tenses of the Saxon verb and the obsolete cases of Saxon nouns.

Purity of style and of expression in language are very greatly and injuriously affected by illiterate newspaper editors and correspondents. Anxious to appear learned, they aspire to a heavy, laboured style in the most trivial matters, while in articles on more serious subjects they frequently descend to the veriest slang of the streets. In the language of newspapers, and of those persons who read nothing better than newspapers, a man never goes home but "an individual proceeds towards his residence;" every man is a "gent" or a "gentleman;" a woman is a "lady," or a "female," or a "young person;" a child is a "juvenile;" and children are the "the rising generation." When Mr. Jones falls in love he "becomes a victim to the tender passion;" when he marries he "is united in the holy bonds of matrimony." Mrs. Jones is not now his wife, but "his lady." The worthy couple do not live in rooms in a certain place but they "occupy apartments in a certain locality." Mr. Jones never mentions his business, he merely "alludes to his avocation." It soon becomes known, not that our friend is a Methodist, but that he is a "member of the Methodist persuasion." Mr. Jones becomes ill, and his friends tell us that he is "seriously indisposed." When Mr. Jones dies, he "takes his departure from our midst," whatever that means. His widow does not feel the loss, for we are told that she "sustains a bereavement." No longer the body, but the "mortal remains" of our late lamented friend, are put into a "casket," not a

coffin, remember, and "the cortege proceeds to the cemetery." To the disgrace of humanity Mr. Jones is not even now decently buried, but he is "consigned to the cold and silent tomb." These expressions are for the most part bombastic and pedantic, and appear ridiculous to the last degree in the connections in which they are commonly found. Another feature worthy of observation is this, that several words, unnecessary and essentially vulgar, have obtained a footing in our language. We can account for this only by the fact that of late years many publishers of dictionaries have shewn a morbid anxiety to be in a position to say that they have *so* many new words in their books not found in any other. Hence they introduce words on the authority of a single writer of magazine articles or of popular romances, and we are afflicted with such novelties as "materialistic," "experimentalize" and "controversialist." Webster's Dictionary is especially remarkable for its "new" words which are anything but a favourable characteristic of that work. "Underhanded" has been introduced into Worcester on the sole authority of Smart. There are two charges against this word, either of which should banish it from our language. It is unnecessary, since its place is filled by the word *underhand*; it is formed on a false analogy, the participial or adjective termination "ed" being added to an adjective. Why not "beforehanded," if we allow "underhanded?" A reason similar to the first might be urged against the adoption of *lénience*, *lénency*, *preventative*, *rotatory*, *donate*, *firstly*, and many others. Numerous words, good enough in themselves, have been put to improper uses. Thus the word "couple" denotes any two objects fastened together or connected in some way, and any two not connected are virtually not a couple. Hence the error in the expressions, a "couple" of