

"12.—None know the value of education but those who have received it; it is therefore the duty of every child who has been well educated himself to use his influence when he grows up to extend it to others. and if he be a legislator, to make it national and universal in his country."

GAINS OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE.

THERE are periods, as we have seen, when this goes forward much more largely than at others; when a language throws open, as it were, its doors, and welcomes strangers with especial freedom; but there is never a time, when one by one these strangers and foreigners are not stepping into it. We do not for the most part observe the fact, at least not while it is actually doing.—The great innovator, Time, manages his innovations so dexterously, spreads them over such vast periods, and therefore brings them about so gradually, that often, while effecting the mightiest changes, he seems to us to be effecting none at all.

It is, indeed, well nigh impossible to conceive any thing more gradual than the steps by which a foreign word is admitted into the full rights of an English one: and thus the process of its incoming often eludes our notice altogether. It appears to me that we may best understand this, by fixing our attention upon some single word, which at this very moment is in the course of becoming English. I know no better example than the French word "prestige" will afford. "Prestige" manifestly supplies a want in our tongue; it expresses something which no single word in English could express; which could only be expressed by a long circumlocution; being that moral influence which past successes, as the pledge and promise of future ones, breed. The word has thus naturally come to be of very frequent use by good English writers; for they do not feel that in employing it, they are deserting as good or a better word of their own. At first, all used it avowedly as French, writing it in italics to indicate this. At the present moment some writers do so still, some do not; that is, some regard it still as French, others consider that it has now become English, and obtained an English settlement.

Trench.

FALSE SYNTAX.

To say that a thing *looks* when we look *at* it, is an idiom peculiar to our language, and some idioms are not reducible to rules; they are conventional terms which pass current, like bank-notes, for the sterling they represent, but must not be submitted to the test of grammatical alchemy. It is improper, therefore, to say "the queen looks beautifully;" "the flowers smell sweetly;" "this writing looks shockingly;" because it is the speaker that performs the act of looking, smelling, etc., not the noun looked *at*; and though, by an idiomatical construction, necessary to avoid circumlocution, the sentence *imputes the act to the thing beheld*, the qualifying word must express the quality of the thing spoken of, *adjectively*, instead of qualifying the act of the nominative understood, *adverbially*. What an adjective is to a noun, an adverb is to a verb; an adjective expresses the quality of a thing, and an adverb the manner of an action. Consider what it is you wish to express, the *quality of a thing*, or the *manner of an action*, and use an adjective or adverb accordingly. But beware that you discriminate justly, for though you cannot say "the queen looked *majestically* in her robes," because here the act of *looking* is performed by the speaker, who looks at her; you can and must say, "the queen looked *graciously* on the petitioner;" "the queen looked *mercifully* on his prayer;" because here the *act of looking* is performed by the queen. You cannot say, "these flowers smell sweetly," because it is *you* that smell, and not the flowers; but you can say, "these flowers perfume the air deliciously," because it is *they* which impart the fragrance, not you.—You cannot say, "this dress looks badly," because it is *you* that look, not the dress; but you can say, "this dress *fits* badly," because it is the dress that performs the act of fitting, either well or ill.

Live and Learn.

READING.

Of all the diversions of life, there is none so proper to fill up its empty space as the reading of useful and entertaining authors: and with that the conversation of a well-chosen friend. . . . By reading we enjoy the dead—by conversation the living—and by contemplation