

man, so that in the end we may have the proud satisfaction of looking back on a life honourably spent in work faithfully done.

P. S.—In order to avoid misconception, I may say that, assuming

that the Bible is read by all our teachers, and that it occupied necessarily the first and foremost place among their reading, I have not thought it necessary to say anything about it in this Essay.

COMMON ERRORS OF SPEECH AND THEIR CORRECTION.—II.

BY H. J. STRANG, B.A., PRINCIPAL HIGH SCHOOL, GODERICH.

(Continued from page 114.)

ERRORS OF STYLE.

UNDER the head of Style, in composition, the principal qualities to be considered are Purity (or Correctness), Clearness, Force, and Harmony (or Elegance). Of these the first two are not only the most important, but the only ones that direct instruction in school can do much towards securing. On this point it is noted by Hill, in his "Principles of Rhetoric"—to which, as also to Abbot's "How to Write Clearly," and Nichol's "Composition" (Primer Series), I take the opportunity of acknowledging my indebtedness:—"While engaged in the act of composition, a writer should think little about Force, and not at all about positive Elegance; but he should constantly aim to make himself intelligible, sure that if he does not succeed in doing this other merits will be of little avail, and that if he does succeed other merits will be likely to come unsought."

I. CORRECTNESS.—This has to do chiefly, if not solely, with the choice of words and phrases; and errors in this respect are usually classed as Solecisms, Barbarisms, or Improprieties. With the first of these I have already dealt at sufficient length under the head of "Grammatical Errors"—

a solecism being generally understood, I think, to mean a violation of some rule of grammar, or of the idiom of the language.

Barbarisms (or, as the name indicates, words not recognized as good current English) include *obsolete* or *antiquated*, *foreign*, and *newly-formed* words. Of these the first two do not seem to call for illustration, as they are rarely heard or met with; and the unnecessary use of foreign words and phrases, though common enough in many of the novels and magazine articles of the present day, is scarcely so general a fault as to come within the scope of this paper. As to the third class, a word or two of caution may not be amiss. I am far from being one of those rigid conservatives who regard our language as complete and sacred, and stubbornly resist every attempt to introduce a new word or phrase, or to use an old one in a new sense. As our knowledge grows, our language must go on to keep pace with it. New discoveries, inventions, wants, and thoughts will require and suggest new words or phrases to name or express them. While, however, I have not the slightest objection to the introduction of new words and phrases into our language, always provided (1) that they supply a real want; and (2) that they have been formed in