

agents of the crown under which they serve, and neither the Queen of England nor the Emperor of Germany can issue any documents which are valid in international law unless countersigned by a responsible minister. The article "ambassador" in Dr. Murray's great dictionary, then, is not sufficiently precise, because an ambassador is not the only diplomatic officer who has a right to a personal interview with the sovereign to whom he is accredited.

The same dictionary is mistaken also in stating that there is any material difference between ordinary and extraordinary ambassadors. The ordinary or resident ambassadors of Russia in Berlin and Constantinople, the British ambassador in Germany, and the German ambassador in London, are "ambassadors extraordinary and plenipotentiary;" but this title is complimentary, in the same sense in which Mr. James Russell Lowell's is. The latter is called "envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary," although in fact he is our ordinary minister in London and a plenipotentiary in very few things. This complimentary use of the word extraordinary in relation to ambassadors or ministers is not explained by any of our dictionaries. The Imperial Dictionary is mistaken in saying that "an envoy is distinguished from an ambassador or permanent resident at a foreign court." An envoy is a permanent

resident at the seat of the government to which he is accredited, whether that government has a court or not. The Imperial Dictionary says also that the word international may mean "pertaining to or mutually affecting one or more nations." What international affair could mutually affect one nation?

Ogilvie's erroneous definition of an envoy has been copied from Webster, and might be used as a good text for preaching a sermon on the easy faith with which some lexicographers have copied from their rivals or predecessors. Nearly every dictionary, Worcester included, has copied Johnson's amusing misprint of adventine for adventive. And on diplomatic terms nearly every lexicographer has been misled by his colleagues, though Todd-Johnson may be unique in defining a minister-resident as "an agent, minister, or officer residing in any distant place with the dignity of an ambassador." The resident ranks below an envoy, who ranks below an ambassador. An ambassador is described quite correctly for the time by Bailey, who said in 1730 that an ambassador or embassadeur is "a person sent by a king, prince, or sovereign state to another, either to treat on some important affair, to compliment upon some happy occasion, or to condole upon a death." But the Congress of Vienna introduced a new order of things in diplomacy, if not in the dictionaries.—*Lippincott's Magazine*.

AN old friend of mine once asked me if I was studying any of the higher branches, and, upon my replying in the negative, he said, "Well, you ought to do so, for if you don't your life will be miserable." Being young and rather thoughtless at the time, I paid little attention to my friend's advice; but now I begin to find out that his words contained a good deal of truth. Only this evening I read, in one of the Toronto dailies, a lecture by Professor Haanel, of Victoria University, Cobourg, on "The Physical Basis of Mental Phenomena," which gave me a vivid glimpse of the pleasure I have missed;

by neglecting the study of the higher branches I have allowed my mental faculties to become somewhat dwarfed from want of use. In exact, thorough knowledge of any subject, I am a mere child; what I know of any subject is fragmentary, inexact and unsystematic.

And all this is my own fault: I knew better than to allow myself to drift into this state, but was too indolent and careless to apply myself earnestly to study and to make use of my spare time to advantage. And how old habits cling! I often even yet fritter away many a precious hour.—[An extract from my Journal by Broré.]