

of adjectives, being applicable to almost anything making pretension to being above the ordinary.

Slang, habitually used, shows a lack of a sense of propriety. Much of the slang we hear every day has its origin in cheap operas or low songs, in a word, in the lowest levels, and its constant use must gradually reduce our thoughts to the same ignorant level. If we are speaking to one to whom we wish to show respect, we must to accomplish this avoid the use of slang. Innately we know and feel that its use would be indelicate and improper. And if it is to be avoided in this case, then by a gentleman it is always to be avoided. At any rate conservatism is the better policy. Pope says : " Be not the first by which the new are tried " ; and Genong says : " If they are to live there is abundant time to use them, if not they are better left alone." If there is a real need for a word it will be accepted ; if not it will live its day and then die. From the history of our language we could dig up the skeletons of numberless words that have fallen in the battle for existence. Many, on the other hand, have survived the struggle. This is the life of language. Owing to changing conditions, it is inevitable but that a necessity for new words should arise. But time is the only gauge of their legitimacy.

C. JONES, '07.

THE SONG OF THE THAW.

Before my blade, the snow wreaths fade
The frosty blast I cripple
The frozen stream wakes from its dream
And straight begins to ripple.

KERNIGHAN