

Some Common Errors in Diction.

Some of the common errors which occur in everyday conversation are perhaps not apparent to all of us from the fact of their frequent use. Some are of a provincial nature while others can almost be considered as continental. The geographical extent over which the words are prevalent, I do not intend to discuss but simply to try to give the correct interpretations based on such authorities as the Century, Standard and Webster's Dictionaries.

Let us take the pronunciation of the word "pianist." The three authorities above give "pi-an-ist" only (accent on second syllable) in contradistinction to "pi-an-ist" (accent on first syllable)—a form of pronunciation used frequently by people who do not take the trouble to ascertain for themselves the correct form. The word "suggest" has two forms of pronunciation one where the first g is suppressed, and the other where it is sounded. The latter is correct. "Trait" is correctly pronounced with the final t sounded. "Against" is pronounced a-genst, "chastisement" has the accent on the first syllable, the i being short; "culinary" has the u long in the first syllable, not as in cull; "discourse" and "finance" are both accented on the second syllable; and so "hearth" is "harth" not "herth"; "heaven" is in one syllable not in two; "Italian" is "It-al-yun", not "eye-tal-yun"; "nuptial" is "nup-shal" not "nupt-yal"; "supple" is "sup-pl" not "su-pl"; "immediate" is in four not in three syllables; "vaudeville" is "vode-vil" not "vod-e-vil"; "vitriol" is "vit-ri-ol" not "vit-rol."

In addition to these examples of faulty pronunciation we often evince great carelessness in our choice of words. The following will illustrate my meaning. "The dog is barking I will go and take him in." "Take" is a verb signifying the removal of something. In this case the intention of the person is evidently to allow the dog to come into the house and the proper word to use is "bring." "I haven't seen him since a while" is a common expression in some localities. "Since" is a definite measurement of time from a previous date to the present moment and hence should be used only when a previous date is mentioned. In the above construction "for" would be a good substitute. "I received this bracelet on a present" should be "I received this bracelet as a present" or better still, "This bracelet was presented to me." "You will be

coming back one of those days" is a common construction in a certain town. "My horse died on me last week" is as common as it is erroneous. "He stopped in town all night" should be "He stayed in town all night." "To stop," means to arrest a body in motion; "to stay" means to continue in a state of rest. Regarding the verbs "sit" and "set," "lie" and "lay," a safe rule for following is to consider "set" and "lay" with their inflections as transitive verbs requiring objects, and "sit" and "lie" as intransitive verbs. There is only one exception to this rule. We say, "The sun sets." Here "sets" is an intransitive verb. We say "He set the hen" but we should say "The hen is sitting."

—A. W. F., MAITLAND (N. S.)

How to Make Loyal Citizens.

The words of Earl Grey, Governor-General of Canada, to the children of Toronto on Empire Day should be told to every boy and girl in this wide dominion:

..... I have a request to make to you individually, and it is a request from his Majesty the King. He knows what sacrifices you would make; he knows your loyalty; but he wants you to do something which is difficult, and, therefore, the more honourable to do. He wants you to resolve not to die for the land you love, but to live for it. For that reason he asks that you should study to fit yourselves for the work that lies before every citizen of this country and of the empire. Learn to control yourselves, be intelligent, take the opportunity our splendid school systems offer to become well informed men and women, so that your lives will be the lives of loyal citizens, capable and willing in supporting the nation's institutions. If you do these things you will grow to be a strong, virtuous and noble people, whose influence will radiate not only throughout Canada, but throughout the whole empire.

The next House of Commons will contain 221 members instead of 214 as at the election of 1904.	
Ontario,	86
Quebec,	65
Nova Scotia,	18
New Brunswick,	13
Prince Edward Island,	4
Manitoba,	10
Saskatchewan,	10
Alberta,	7
British Columbia,	7
Yukon,	1

221

The increases are Saskatchewan 4 and Alberta 3.