

agree in that opinion, or I confirm that statement, though perhaps more consistent with the train of thought among a "nation of shopkeepers."

The English language still waits for many new words—and will receive them as the time rolls on. Among the most urgent of them is a synonym for "wholesale" in the uncommercial sense. To speak of wholesale objections, wholesale robberies, or wholesale murders, is to employ a word that labours under the double disadvantage of inadequacy and vulgarity. The French phrase *en gros* is something, though not much better. It should be stated, however, that the English language is not alone in the abuse of this commercial word as applied to matters entirely non-commercial, and in no way pertaining to the shop. But doubtless if a word were coined for such an epithet as "*wholesale murder*," it would not be generally or even partially accepted. Many new words, or words long since obsolete in England, come back to us from the United States, that retain very many Shakespearian and sixteenth and seventeenth-century expressions that have long disappeared from the literary language of the nineteenth, and are gradually finding their way into currency mainly through the instrumentality of the newspapers. Of words entirely new to English proper, which have recently come into favour, are *skedaddle*, *boss*, *ranche*, *bogus*, *caucus*, and *vamoose*. Among political phrases, derived from the vernacular of wild and uncultivated territory, are *log-rolling*, *wire-pulling*, and *axe-grinding*; and of new combinations of old words, and of more or less justifiable innovations upon the old rules of grammatical construction, are to *collide*, instead of to come into collision; *burgle*, instead of to commit a burglary; and to *telescope*—applied to railway accidents when the force of a

collision causes the cars or carriages to run or fit into each other, like the lengthening and consequently shortening slides of a telescope. (Of them, *collide* must be accepted as a clear gain; *burgle* will pass muster, among comic writers especially, and will doubtless, though wholly irregular, succeed in establishing itself—at first in jest, and afterwards in earnest; while "to telescope," in the sense in which it has lately become popular, is so useful in avoiding a periphrasis, and so picturesque besides, that it promises to become indispensable.

The American word "boss" supplies in some respects a deficiency or corrects an inaccuracy in its nearly synonymous word "master." The very free and haughtily independent American workman recognizes no "master" in his employer, but calls him his "boss," and thinks that "master" is a word only fit to be used by negroes in a state of slavery; which in their new state of freedom even the negroes are beginning to repudiate. A boss signifies not so much a "master" in the strict sense of the word, but an overseer, a director, a manager, and the verb to "boss" means to superintend, to manage, to control, or be responsible for the labour of the workmen and the proper completion of their work. The word has been partially adopted by the English newspapers, one of which informed its readers through the medium of its ubiquitous and omniscient London correspondent, that it was well known that Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, the president of the Board of Trade, "was the boss of the Birmingham Caucus." The *St. James's Gazette* of November 11, 1882, in an article on American politics, and the results upon the state of parties of the recent elections of State functionaries, and the pernicious system of exacting an annual contribution from any official, high or low, who owes