

is a very common phrase, to be mended by omitting the "*here*."

For is often employed unnecessarily, as in "She came to Saratoga *for* to drink the waters." This would have passed as good grammar in old English, but it will not do in these times. "One of my great difficulties," says Annie, "is in connection with verbs. Should I say '*news is*' or *news are*?' That depends entirely upon circumstances. Sometimes the verb should be in the plural, sometimes in the singular.

"Another difficulty! Should one say 'Either you or I *are* wrong?' or 'Either you or I *am* wrong?'" The latter is grammatically correct. We have an example of the verb in a wrong number in the sentence, "One of these houses *were* sold yesterday." Here the ear is misled by the plural noun "houses." We forget that the verb should be "was" agreeing in number with "one." "Each of the girls *are* to have a separate share." This an error of the same sort. *Are*, of course, should be *is*.

The question has been raised whether we should say "Two and two *is* four, or *are* four," and it has been laid down by some people as a rule that in all abstract cases, when

we merely speak of numbers, the verb is better singular; but there is as much authority, perhaps more, on the other side.

A number of miscellaneous errors remain to be mentioned. "*I shall be much pleased to accept* your kind invitation for Wednesday first." This should be "I accept with pleasure," for there is nothing future about your acceptance. An every-day mistake among the half-educated consists in the use of *like* in the place of *as*. For example: "*Like* she did"; "*Like* I do now"; "*Like* we were"; "*Like* she told me." Six *spoons full*" and six *spoonfuls*" are different things, though often confounded. To take "six spoonfuls" only *one* spoon is needed, but for "six spoons full" you must have *six* spoons. The use of *directly* instead of *immediately* is a common error. "*Directly* Mary came," says Julia, "I went away." May one say "*well-looking*" instead of "*good-looking*?" No. *Well-looking* has no standing in respectable society. "Blanche is as different to Georgiana as she could be." Here to should be *from*. "I intended to *have played* on the piano to-day." This should be "I intended to play."—*Central School Journal*.

TRUE AND FALSE CULTURE.

THE word "culture" has had a good deal of prominence in recent literature and still more in popular conversation. Some, who think they possess it, are apt to look with contempt on those who, in their judgment, are without this mark of refinement. Mental culture is certainly a very desirable thing, the value of which can hardly be over-estimated. But there is good reason to believe that there are wrong ideas of culture widely prevalent; and that the people

who most ostentatiously use the word do not always possess the thing signified.

The popular idea of culture is polite manners, good taste in matters of art, familiarity with the usages of the best society, and those outward accomplishments which render social intercourse pleasant. These things are by no means unimportant. They contribute largely to make life agreeable and successful; though they are by no means the highest things. But the