

In telling a story orally, we rely, to a large extent, upon emphasis, gestures, and our tone of voice, to make ourselves understood, and, as a result, our sentences are often loosely constructed, and our expressions are sometimes more abrupt than in writing.

In oral narration, too, we generally use more simple language than in writing. There are also certain forms of expression which are seldom, if ever, used by good writers, except in reporting the conversation of others, but which are, nevertheless, considered admissible in spoken English.

10. Expressions which are used in speaking, but which are not commonly used in writing are said to be colloquial (Latin *con*, "together," and *loquor*, "I speak").

The following is an example of an incident told in colloquial style :

Stanton, who was Secretary of War in Lincoln's cabinet, once received a letter which made him very angry.

"I believe," said he, "I'll sit down and give that man a piece of my mind."

"Yes, do," said Lincoln. "Write him while you have it on your mind. Make it sharp. Cut him up."

Stanton didn't need any urging. It was a "crusher" which he read to the President.

"That's right," said Lincoln ; "that's a good one."

"What's the best way to send it to him ?" asked the secretary.

"Send it !" replied Lincoln ; "Send it ! Don't send it at all. Tear it up ; you have freed your mind on the subject. That's all that is necessary. You should never send such letters. I never do."

#### EXERCISE 6

Tell a short story of some incident in your own experience. The following subjects are suggested :