

may hold fast to all 'isms' which are not vulgarisms. Life would be unbearable if everyone talked like a book. It is far better to use 'isms' than in the words of an illustrious Irishman 'to hide one's nationality under a cloak of personal affectation.' "

And so, thus to treat these matters, without rage in one's heart, but with a sober, literary, not to say pedantic outward coolness.

Quite lately, in Mr. Stephen Phillips' "Herod," we read:

"Am I that Herod

That, ere the beard was on me,
burned up cities,
That fired the robbers out of Galilee?"

A low American vulgarism, said some critics. But,

"He that parts us shall bring a brand from heaven,
And fire us hence like foxes."

("King Lear," v. 3 22); and Shakespeare has also the metaphorical use:—

"Yet this shall I ne'er know, but
live in doubt,
Till my bad angel fire my good
one out."

(Sonnet cxliv.)

The Athenaeum (Feb. 1, 1901) concludes that "Since it was discovered that the verb to 'fire out'—that is, to expel—occurs in the Sonnets, there has been less haste to accuse the Americans of tampering with the well of English undefiled."

Here are some more "discoveries" of the older use of our Americanisms:—

Fool.

"You see me here, you gods,
poor old man,

As full of grief as age; wretched
in both!

If it be you that stir these
daughters' hearts

Against their father, fool me not
so much

To bear it tamely; touch me
with noble anger,

And let not women's weapons,
water-drops,

Stain my man's cheeks."

("King Lear," ii. 4, 275.)

"Fool not; for all may have,
If they dare try, a glorious life
or grave."

(George Herbert, d. 1633.)

Fooling.

"Have no more fooling about
it."

("Merch. of Ven.," ii., 2, 88.)

"Thou wast in very gracious
fooling."

("Twelfth Night," ii., 3, 22.)

"The Knight's in admirable
fooling."

(Ib., 1., 85)

Carry On (intransitive).

"When it was known that more
than one court negotiation
was carrying on with the
heads of the opposition."

Burke (On American Taxation,
1774).

Mad.

"Now, in faith, Gratiano,
You give your wife too unkind
a cause of grief:

An 'twere to me, I should be
mad at it"

("M. of V.," v., 1, 176.)

As Mr. Pepys, on his side actually was; when Mrs. Pepys not carefully hid his goid, those troublous times of the London plague