

*forget-me-not*,—denote a certain flower, emblematic of friendship or fidelity.

All compounds, therefore, should be so written as will best exhibit their true pronunciation, and the ideas intended to be expressed,—objects which, we have seen, may to some extent be effected either by consolidating the simples, or by uniting them with a hyphen. And here the rule already laid down might naturally be expected to come to our aid, as being founded on the characteristics and tendencies of the English language itself. But, notwithstanding the obvious worth and utility of the rule, the practice of some of our best authors and printers, as to the mode of exhibiting many of the compounds in use, is so conflicting, and the inconsistencies of perhaps all our lexicographers are so numerous, not to speak of their defect in distinguishing the compounds which have only one accent from those which have two, that it would be regarded as pedantry or presumption for a punctuator to attempt subjecting each of the compound words to the operation of the rule; and, on the other hand, it would be impracticable for him, without filling a volume, to give perfect lists of all the compounds, with the fluctuating and different modes in which they are presented in dictionaries and other books. We would recommend, however, that in all cases where the general and best usage as to the insertion or omission of the hyphen cannot readily be learned, recourse be had, when the accentuation is previously known, to the rule itself.

(To be continued.)

**Systematizing Local News Gathering.**

At present it requires no argument to prove that the foundation of a country newspaper's prosperity lies in the manner in which it treats local affairs. Finely printed papers, interesting stories, excellent poems, good editorials, with witty squibs, and other specialties, all tend, or are alleged to, towards extending the circulation and character of a newspaper; but, after all these efforts, it is evident that a majority of the readers of the local newspaper pay their first and closest attention to the department devoted to home affairs.

The city daily, with its revenues, ability, power, its "burning of midnight oil," can overtop the home paper in everything but home news, and here it should find a competitor ever zealous, jealous, appreciative of its own

capabilities and opportunities. The city press is paying more attention to suburban news, and in every town and village swarm correspondents, who are sometimes more conspicuous personally than by their works. These indefatigable "laborers of love" of being connected with the potent press, manage to have published in some paper about all the pith of news that is of consequence.

At first it would appear that with such an array of talent, the country editor could fill his local columns by a judicious manipulation of the indispensable shears and paste, and too many even do practice this mode. Indeed, the country editor should clip everything that in any way relates to his home department, but before sending it to the compositor its essential truth should be ascertained; it should be revised; if necessary, its errors corrected, and further particulars erudited.

A SAMPLE ITEM.

An incendiary fire last night destroyed an unoccupied store owned by Edward Gleason, in Milford. Loss, \$1000; insured for \$900 in the New Hampshire Mutual.

That is the item as it appears in the city press. The home paper may add for the information of its readers, the hour when the fire occurred, the precise location of the premises, a description of the building, and other buildings, if any, adjoining, who were the former occupants and what their business. To facilitate matters, printed blanks like the one below will save many questions and preserve the answers, and usually prove sufficient for ordinary cases:

REPORT OF A FIRE.

Date.....hour..... M.  
 Location.....street.  
 Description.....  
 Size, material, purpose used for, when built, etc.  
 Property known as.....  
 Owner.....  
 Occupants.....  
 Contents.....  
 Loss, \$.....total or partial.  
 Give loss on buildings and contents separately.  
 Insurance, \$.....Companies.  
 Cause.....  
 Will it be rebuilt.....  
 Accidents, incidents, remarks, who discovered the fire, adjoining buildings endangered.

Use a separate sheet for each building.

I believe that this simple blank, which is inexpensive, will save much time. An insurance agent who is acquainted with the risk will usually fill all blanks, and other particulars can be inquired into.

REX.