

selves to our readers, we have decided to take the step, and we take this opportunity of announcing that next month you will not receive the V. P. JOURNAL, but, in its stead, KOSMOS. In widening our title and scope we hope that the friends of the JOURNAL will not forget their old friend with the new name, and will considerately and heartily welcome KOSMOS.

BEST ENGLISH.

“It is doubtful if there are fifty men in the United States who speak and write the English tongue correctly.”

THE above extract from the *Graphic* carries its own proof that the number should have been limited to *forty-nine*. Following the best authorities, the critic of the *Graphic* should more correctly have said: “It is doubtful *whether* there are fifty men in the United States who speak and write the English language correctly.” Ayres, in his *Verbalist*, says: “*Tongue* refers especially to an original language, as ‘the Hebrew tongue.’ The modern languages are derived from the original tongues. If this be correct, then he who speaks French, German, English, Spanish, and Italian may properly say that he speaks five *languages*, but only one *tongue*.” To further restrict the terms to modern usage, it would be more proper to say that we *speak*, not *write*, a tongue. But this distinction cannot always be enforced.

If the above estimate be correct, and we are forced to believe it, what a deplorable confession to be compelled to make. Not fifty out of fifty millions can use their *native* language correctly! In this non-classical country it would be unsafe to say that fifty can write grammatical Latin, but among the learned it would seem that pure Latin is almost as common as pure English. The distinguishing characteristic of our language is its copiousness, its adaptability, its flexibility; but when unguarded this use may become the means of the greatest abuse. The looseness of the language of the general public is owing to