

language. A little nine-year-old was asked what a neighbor was doing with so much new lumber in his yard, was he going to build a fence? "No," she said, "he has *highered* his cellar, and is going to put in a new drain." Her instinct was correct; on the analogy of *lowered* she coined *highered*. We reject it now just as at one time in the past *drive* was rejected as a past plural, or *spun* or *broke* as past singulars. And the fact that we have already a word with the same sound, *hired*, need not cause its rejection, for we have plenty of such *sound-doublets* or *homonyms*. In every family and in every community numberless such examples as I have quoted may be found. Some may go beyond the family into the community, and from the community may gain wide currency and become universal. We are all creators in the field of language, unconscious it may be; but nevertheless creators; it behooves us, therefore, to have a care that we do no violence to our mother-tongue.

This introductory chapter might easily be made longer, indeed, become a book. We reserve some very interesting subjects until later. Such are *popular* and *learned* words, *slang* and *fashion* in language, and especially the *influence of Christianity* upon our speech.