

thing like education to his offspring. Even gratuitous instruction in parish schools can be but briefly taken advantage of; the poverty of the parents compelling the children, at a very early age, to exercise their feeble powers in earning a trifling contribution towards their own support. Deprived, thus, of useful tuition, they grow up in rustic ignorance and clownishness; and their colloquial language is generally a barbarous corruption of their native tongue, peculiarly distinguished in pronunciation and idiom, by the local dialects which ancient usage and custom have established in their particular district. Thus it is, that the Yorkshire, the West Country, the Eastern counties and other rural districts of England so widely differ from each other in colloquial expression, and the dialects of all of them are nearly unintelligible to an unpractised Cockney, or genuine native of London. On the other hand, the natives of this Province, even among the humbler classes, have mostly been born in more comfortable circumstances; the same imperative necessity has not existed, for dooming the earliest years of children to exhausting toil; they have enjoyed the benefit of a good *common* education, in the parochial schools of Provincial establishment; there has been no diversity of local dialects to foster distinctive varieties of colloquial expression; and consequently the language of the population has become more uniform and correct. Still, there are numerous vulgarities and corruptions of speech, which require correction among us; our proximity to our speculative American neighbours, who are ever restlessly striking out, not only new mercantile enterprises and modes of traffic, but also novel orthographical compounds and distorted forms of speech, sufficiently accounts for the introduction of these barbarisms among us; but does not justify our adoption or usage of them.

Every *nation*, as such, has an undoubted right to modify or alter its own language at its own pleasure; but such modifications must be effected by general consent of the highest scholastic authorities, and on admitted principles of construction and etymology. A nation thus agreeing to innovations in its own peculiar medium of communication, has yet no right to insist that such innovations shall be introduced into the language of a country, from which its own was originally derived; nor are the inhabitants of such a country justified in debasing their own language, injuring its characteristic principles and construction, and violating the integrity of its genius, by

adopting the corruptions of a people who have taken licentious liberties with their borrowed form of speech. In this position do we, some degree stand, with regard to the neighbouring Republic. We consider ourselves, (Colonists,) as integral members of the British Empire; we glory in the name of Englishmen, and we universally speak the language of our great mother country. The English language, then, is *our* language, our native birthright, our *national* tongue; and we are bound, therefore, to use it and to preserve it in its established purity and perfection. The American nation, having renounced their connection with their ancient parent stock, to become an independent people, have obtained for themselves national privileges and rights; they have, indeed, retained the English language and language, as the basis of their own; but under their influence and accustomed to its use and excellence, the founders of the Republic could do no other than preserve them, their country and descendants; but subjected they thus became, to the modifications and innovations of a new country, no longer connected with or controuled by the parent nation, those laws and that language, *in America*, may cease to be denominated intrinsically English, and should rather be distinctively styled *American*. With regard to *laws*, from the necessity of the case, this nomenclature has been established; and as the same nation has the right to alter, modify and transmute, as well to language as to laws, (although in the one case that right is exercised more frequently, and in accordance with the urgency of circumstances; while in the other it is chiefly the result of accident, caprice or custom,) the designation of "*American*" should also be given to the language of the Republic. It follows, then, that the American people have an inherent right, to make what changes they please in their national language, as well as their laws; but we have no right to adopt such changes in our use of our native English tongue, what are in them merely national peculiarities, become in us *inadmissible corruptions*; because our standard of correctness is the English and not the American language; and as to the established rules of English etymology and construction that we must refer our dictionary and our literary composition. The Spanish language is chiefly founded on the Latin, so much so, that it is easy for a Latin scholar to acquire proficiency in the Spanish: the changes and modifications resulting from time and circumstances are indeed numerous, yet the ba-