

same name is given to false teachers, by Paul, in Phil. iii. 2; and in Rev. xxii. 15, it is applied to men addicted to vile sensuality.

Scripture Natural History. —

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THE BEAR.

ORDER:—Carnivora.

“As if a man did flee from a lion,
And a bear met him.”

AMOS v. 19.

In the days of the Kings of Israel, the bear was much more common in Palestine than at present. There are several kinds of this animal: but the one mentioned in Scripture is that called the Syrian bear. It frequently preys on animals, but for the most part, feeds on vegetables. The skin is sometimes of a yellowish brown, and sometimes a yellowish white, varied with yellow spots. The bear has a long clumsy body covered with coarse hair; and short, thick legs: but what distinguishes it particularly is its feet. It walks on the soles of the feet, while most of the Mammalia tread upon the ground only with their toes. When its anger is roused, it is a dreadful opponent, from its great strength and undaunted resolution.

The anger of bears, when robbed of their young, gave rise to a proverbial expression, which occurs in several places in Scripture. Jehovah, in threatening his rebellious people, declares: “I will meet them as a bear that is bereaved of her whelps, and will rend the caul of their heart.” Hosea xii. 8. Of David and his numerous warriors it is said: “They be chafed in their minds, as a bear robbed of her whelps in the field.” 2 Sam. xvii. 8. In the vision of Daniel —vii. 5,—the second beast which appeared was like a bear, and represented the empire of the Medes and Persians.

Ib.

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ONE GOOD DEED.

One pound of gold may be drawn into a wire that would extend around the globe.—So one good deed may be felt through all time, and even extend its consequences into eternity. Though done in the first flush of youth, it may gild the last hours of a long life, and form the only bright spot in it.

IMPROPRIETIES OF SPEECH.

I.

We often hear persons speak of “an use,” “an union,” etc. As properly might they say “an year.” When *u* at the beginning of a word has the sound of *yoo*, we must treat it as a consonant, and use *a* instead of *an* before it. So in the word *one*, the vowel sound is preceded by the consonant sound of *v*, as if it were *aun*; and we might as properly say “an wonder,” as say “such an one.” Before words commencing with *h* silent *an* must be used; as “an hour,” “an honest man,” etc. Before words commencing with *h* aspirated we use *a*; as “a hope,” “a high hill,” “a humble cot,” etc. Do we aspirate the *h* in *humb’e*? Yes. So say Webster and the most modern authorities.

II.

It is a common mistake to speak of a disagreeable *effluvia*.” The word is *effluvium* in the singular, and *effluvia* in the plural. A similar form should be observed with *autom’ato*, *arc’num*, *err’atum*, *phenom’ennon*, *alluvium*, and several other words which are less frequently used, and which change the *um* or *on* into *a*, to form the plural. In *memorandum* and *encomium*, usage has made it allowable to form the plural in the ordinary way, by the addition of *s*. We may say either *memorandums* or *memoranda*, *encomiums* or *encomia*. A man, who should have known better, remarked, the other day: “I found but one *errata* in the book.” *Erratum*, he should have said; *one erratum*, two or more *errata*.

III.

There is an awkwardness of speech prevalent among all classes of American society in such sentences as the following: “He quitted his horse and got on to a stage-coach;” “He jumped from the counter on to the floor;” “She laid it on to a dish;” “I threw it on to the fire.” Why use two prepositions where one would be quite as explicit, and far more elegant? Nobody, in the present day, would think of saying, “He came up to the city for to go to the exhibition.”—because the preposition *for* would be an awkward superfluity; so is *to* in the examples given. There are some situations, however, in which the two prepositions may with propriety be employed, though they are never indispensable; as, “I accompanied such a one to Bridgeport, and then walked on to Fairfield.” But here two motions are implied, the walking onward and the reaching of a certain point.

IV.

There seems to be a natural tendency to deal in redundancy of prepositions. Many people talk of “continuing on.” I should be glad to be informed in what other direction it would be possible to *continue*.