

with such new and exceedingly valuable material as is to be found in Brewer's "Phrase and Fable," and Adams' "Dictionary of English Literature," and such works as the "Dictionary of English Phrases with Illustrative Sentences" by Kwong Ki Chiu, not to speak of the Philological Society's Dictionary now nearing completion, the publishers will be inexcusable if they do not make Webster's Dictionary a full exposition of what is best in the use of words in English Literature, but also a ready and infallible guide to the very passage containing the word or phrase illustrated.

As it now is, we have searched for many well-known proverbs, much folklore, many familiar passages from standard authors, many household words, but in vain. In our search we have found a good deal of rubbishy quotation, which makes very poor reading indeed. As we often read the Dictionary for the sake of the reading, we would plead for as good selections as possible, and, if it could be managed, a little larger type. But as we cannot have everything in a one-volumed dictionary, we will not grumble at the size of the type so long as it remains as clear and beautiful as it now is; but we cannot and will not be content with dry marrowless bones, when rich, juicy, toothsome viands may be had for the asking.

*The Vocabulary* is full—full to repletion. There are words by thousands. There are hundreds of words that are not heard of or met with even by good scholars in a lifetime. They swarm over the page, they come in appalling and fantastic shapes in the Supplement, they lie as thick upon the pages as the leaves in Valambrosa. Let them come, however, as long as they are real words. Let them all have a place, whether they are "obsolete or new-coined, barbarous, vulgar and affected, temporary, provincial and

local, belonging to peculiar classes, professions, pursuits, and trades, not indeed all received with equal honour and regard, but with their characteristics and defects duly noted and pointed out." But we do protest against the introduction by the hundred of self-explaining compounds, merely to swell the size of the volume and to be able to proclaim "more words and more matter than in any other dictionary in the language." It has been stated that in Webster's Dictionary the word *sea* is compounded with other words 157 times, *heart* 69 times, *head* 37, *horse* 67, and of *dis* 1,334 and of *in* 3,935. This implies a great waste of space, and that, too, where space is needed for something better than mere compounds over which a child could not stumble. Let these obtrusive, superfluous, useless heaps of lumber be removed and give place to something better, or at least to diminish the bulk and reduce the cost of the book.

*The Collection of Synonyms* is very large, and perhaps as good as any that has been made. Such collections may be useful for the purpose intended, and doubtless are useful in other ways, but their chief use, we have found by experience, is not to discriminate the meaning of words accurately.

*The Pictorial Illustrations* are worthy of more notice than we can now give to them. In number, in beauty, in attractive power (no slight merit in a dictionary), in value, they surpass anything previously attempted in the same way. We are not of those rigid philologists who hold that "figures, diagrams, and the like are not only superfluous in a dictionary, but pernicious." Dictionaries, whether we like it or not, will not confine themselves to language solely. Most people require information about things as well as about words, and they are best pleased with the work that will best illustrate the object of their search. Publish-