

impossible that they may some day find themselves in the best of company.

Two principal characteristics may serve to distinguish what is properly called slang, from certain other varieties of diction that in some respects resemble it. A mere vulgarism is not slang except when it is purposely adopted, and acquires an artificial currency among some class of persons to whom it is not native. The other distinctive feature is that it is neither a part of the ordinary language nor an attempt to supply its deficiencies. The slang word is a deliberate substitute for a word of the vernacular, just as a nickname is a substitute for a personal name.

Our duty toward slang is not to be neutral. In so far as we have convictions, feelings, beliefs about it, we should act on them. Another duty is to act as intelligently as possible; intelligence, rather than imagination, should be the guiding principle. The prejudice against it has its victories, but it has its defeats also, and the exact point at which the struggle may be considered ended, is still in the realm of the unknown.

H. H. W., '22.

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### THE SUBSTITUTE.

“They also serve who only sit and wait.”

These words a message bring to those whose lot

It is to warm the bench as spares, but not

To mingle in the fray,—all those whom Fate

Has held in check and fashioned second-rate.

What really matters it who makes the team

If from the contest we return supreme?

For spares and stars the welcome's just as great.

But yet it matters much, because its hard

To be so near the game and yet so far,

To stand prepared but held in leash, to catch

The thrill but take no hand and play no card,

To feel twixt thou and them that mighty bar—

They made the grade—we failed; they play—we watch.

H. H. W., '22.