

CRITICISING A CRITIC.

Points For the Purist Who Found Flaws in Gray's "Elegy."

To look for and find in masterpieces little flaws, real or imagined, is an occupation that must have its mysterious joys, otherwise, as it brings no profit, the task would not command all the time and labor that are devoted to it, nor would every such discovery be so exultingly proclaimed. This condition is based, or, rather, its repetition, by the letter in which a correspondent confessed that, having heard verbal perfection ascribed to Gray's "Elegy," he was moved carefully to examine the verses on the chance of proving this praise undeserved. And he did, he thinks, having found no less than two errors in the lines:

Their name, their years, spelt by the unlettered muse

The place of fame and elegy supply, And many a holy text around she strews To teach the rustic moralist to die.

"Name" should be "names," this authority declares, for the reason that the stones bore not one but several names, and "many a holy text," being singular, demands "teaches" instead of "teach!"

Now, just why Gray put the word "name" in the singular and not in the plural might be made the subject of ingenious inquiry, with any one of half a dozen sufficient explanations as recompense and all inconclusive, but to see force in the diversity of village patronymics—that requires more than ingenuity; it demands perversity. As for "many a holy text," that does indeed, the grammarians say, insist that a verb in immediate sequence be singular. Even the grammarians admit, however, with innumerable writers of both verse and prose, that if the verb be in a later clause the plural idea involved in "many" can properly be allowed to govern. Would our correspondent insist that when the estimable W. Scott, quoted by Gould Brown in debating this very question, wrote

In Hawick twinkled many a light, Behind him soon they set in night—the "they" should have been turned to "it?" The change would at least be amusing. That much can be said.

Critics of this sort never will learn that rules for linguistic usage are not applied to but are deduced from writers like Gray and Scott, that what such men do is right because they do it and that no further justification is needed.—New York Times.

COURSE OF A PITCHED BALL.

Why a Straight Fast One Jumps Sideways in the Air.

That a pitched baseball curves in the direction in which the nose of the ball is moving because of the spin—upward if the twist given by the pitcher is upward, toward the right if the twist is to the right, and so on—is a matter of experience that is quite comprehensible, but how a hard pitched ball should jump sideways in a most irregular manner, although pitched straight without spinning is certainly puzzling. In the Journal of the Franklin Institute Professor W. S. Franklin of Lehigh university expounds the phenomenon as well as the philosophy of twisted balls. Multitudes of "fans" who have always supposed that the baffling qualities of a straight pitched ball were due simply to its swiftness never suspected this eccentricity. Professor Franklin states the case in this way:

Consider a very smooth ball which is moving through still water without spinning. There is certainly no more reason why the ball should jump to the right than to the left. Therefore it must continue to move straight forward. That is good logic. But such a ball is no more subject to logic than is a sharp stick. The fact is that the ball does jump sideways and in a most irregular manner. This may be shown by dropping a smooth marble in a jar of still water. The marble goes nearly straight for several inches and then suddenly jumps sideways. Similarly a smooth baseball jumps sideways irregularly as it moves through the air if the ball is not spinning.

The explanation lies in the fact that a rapidly moving stream of air splits when it flows past a ball with unstable dividing lines or vortex sheets. The unstable sheet will spurt now upward, now downward. The condition is the same when the ball splits the air and is shunted in a glancing manner past the bat. The only requisite for this baffling effect is power in the pitcher's arm.

Strange Arabian Custom.

In a Tripoli cemetery the grave-stones, with bowls or saucers sunken in the cement, indicate that the one who lies buried there was a person of wealth and importance. These receptacles, however, are not for flowers, as one might imagine, but to hold water for birds. The birds are said to bring good fortune, so the drinking basins are not provided wholly for love of them.

Helping Her.

"You loved her very much?"
"So much that when her first husband died I married her that I might share her grief and so lessen it."
"And how did it work?"
"Fine! I'm sorrier now for his death than she is."—Houston Post.

Probably.

Mrs. Newlywed—I wonder why we are growing tired of each other? Newlywed—I haven't an idea. Mrs. N.—Yes. Maybe that is the reason.—London Telegraph.

Meeting the Supply.

Mrs. Heltzer—Tommy, don't you think you've had enough chocolates? Tommy—No, mother. There are two left.—Life.

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FIELD NOTES

When you keep a boy interested in football, baseball, tennis, and the like, you lessen the chances that he will get interested in things not so good for him.

The Youth's Companion, since its enlargement, gives generous space to this matter of athletic training, and gets the best coaches in the country to write for it.

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Every new subscriber who sends \$2.00 for the 52 weekly issues of 1915, will receive free all the issues of the paper for the remaining weeks of 1914; also the Companion Home Calendar for 1915.

The Youth's Companion,
144 Berkeley St.
Boston, Mass.
Subscriptions taken by The MAIL.

Mt. Pleasant

The services conducted by Rev. Large Sunday morning was well attended.

Effie and Elmer Ray spent Saturday and Sunday with their sister, Mrs. Don Wright of Mill City.

The Misses Downing, and little brother, Clifford, were guests at the Ed Smith home Sunday.

Grace Shank was the guest of the P. H. Lambert home Sun.

J. H. Kloer lost a valuable horse one day last week.

Irvine Ray spent Sunday with his sister, Mrs. Linn Lambert.

G. H. Ray was a Stayton visitor Tuesday.

Mrs. Linn Lambert called to see Mrs. Leslie Townes and little daughter one day last week.

Harry Shank was an Albany visitor Sunday.

Mrs. John Huber was a visitor at the H. Montgomery home on Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. Long of Crabtree spent Sunday with their son Marvin at the D. Townes home.

Marvin Long is on the sick list this week.

Mehama Mites

Rue Drager made a business trip to Portland Wednesday and returned Thursday.

Mrs. Fred Horner and children of Mill City who have been visiting with relatives in Mehama, returned to their home Wednesday.

Lee Berry of Lyons passed through Mehama Friday.

Mrs. Waterman and Mrs. Mercer visited at the Hay's home Sunday.

The W. C. T. U. met at the home of Mrs. C. A. Mulkey Thursday.

Mrs. Jim Parker and two sons spent Sunday night at the Lewis Stout home.

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