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"STUNNING" LANGUAGE.

An English literary journal has been reading a lecture to the war correspondents, the younger ones especially, whom it accuses of striving for startling effects in language rather than for a plain record of the facts, says the Saturday Evening Post.

This critic apparently lacks the fine preceptive ear for the sound of words which the correspondent exhibited. He would have no sympathy for the dear old lady who "found great support in that comforting word, Mesopotamia."

This matter of the cultivation of striking words, or the using of words in unexpected ways, mainly for the effect of the sound of the word itself, is never carried on very industriously in English.

If the majority of poets will persist in neglecting their duty in cultivating the language and making it blossom as the rose there seems to be all the more reason why the war correspondents should not be curbed.

VERTICAL WRITING AND FORGERY.

The statement has recently gone the rounds that a New England banker had discovered that the teaching of vertical handwriting is breeding a race of forgers, says the Ledger.

Dr. Pessifer Frazer, a celebrated expert on handwriting and authority on the subject, says that the relation of any system of writing to the prevalence of forgery is, in his opinion, represented by zero.

A leading New York banker declares that the detection of a forgery of a plain, simple signature is easier than that of a complicated signature, a forgery of which will often pass unnoticed unless it is very carefully examined.

Another expert on handwriting, in order to "lay effectually the absurd ghost about vertical handwriting and forgery," says that "forgers do not go

around imitating the signatures of school children." This is true. Whatever system of writing is followed in copy books in school serves only to train the hand.

SENATOR PATTERSON, HAYSEED.

For pure provincialism or a most amazing insincerity commend us to the Honorable T. M. Patterson, junior United States senator from Colorado, says the New York Commercial.

"New York already has one postoffice," he sagely remarked to his colleagues in objecting to the Central lease and the Pennsylvania-site purchase, "and what on earth can she want of another?"

"Why," the Colorado senator went on, "that postoffice which New York now has cost the nation over \$6,000,000, and it looks to me as if the committee has striven to give New York more plums than she is fairly entitled to, considering that many other cities throughout the country are compelled to go without adequate postoffice accommodations."

Senator Penrose picked up the Colorado man's gauntlet—but of what earthly use was it to show him that there are a few more people here in New York than there are in Aspen and that our mails here are a trifle heavier than they are in Leadville or Webster or Devil's Causeway?

We dislike to set Senator Patterson down as ignorant or insincere, but, if he is neither one nor the other, he must belong in that coterie of statesmen who think it "smart" to hold up any and all New York propositions in congress.

Japan has declined to take the space vacated by Russia at the St. Louis exposition. Her ambition is centered on occupying the space which she expects Russia to vacate in Korea.

Lieutenant Totten now predicts that the world will come to an end 1919. There are some members of congress who have a suspicion that the end will come next November.

We trust that some one in the state department is keeping tab on the South American revolutions, so we can check up after the big show is over in the far east.

The Congressional Record would be much more interesting if it contained illustrations showing how the members of the house look when they say it.

There should be no longer any question as to "Why Smith Left Home" after reading the testimony of the president of the Mormon church.

There is no longer any question about the presence of spring. North Carolina is sending her first shipments of Vermont maple syrup to market.

Many a man is credited with having "sporting blood in his veins" when an analysis would show that it is nothing but booze in his blood.

A Chicago dispatch reports that President Harper is in splendid health. He has just lost his vermiform appendix and also Professor Triggs.

China feels that she could get along without having her integrity guaranteed if some plan could be devised for curing Russia's greed.

There are indications that the Mormon apostles are looking to the senate committee on privileges and elections for their next revelations.

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Sold all over the world. Potatoes a Luxury. New York, April 9.—Potatoes have fallen into the line of raising products in this city, and have suddenly advanced at wholesale from 75 cents to \$1 a barrel.

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Table with columns: Depart, TIME SCHEDULES, Arrive. Rows for Chicago, Portland, Atlantic Express, St. Paul.

OCEAN AND RIVER SCHEDULES -From Astoria- All sailing dates subject to change. For San Francisco every five days. Steamer Nahcotta leaves Astoria on tide daily except Sunday for Ilwaco, connecting there with trains for Long Beach, Tioga and North Beach points.

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