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#### "STUNNING" LANGUAGE.

An English literary journal has been reading a leeture 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. It appears that in the Bore war some one of these scribes of Bellona spoke of a large cannon as having "coughed at the enem ytwo or three times and then relapsed into tense, painful silence." The editor thinks the young man tried too hard.

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." The cannon in question was supposed to be some distance away, and its remarks may have sounded like a cough. Nobody supposes that the cannon was actually afflicted with a bronchial difficulty which the surgeon should have treated. Cannon have boomed too long; let them cough. Perhaps the correspondent, if hard pressed, ought to be allowed to make the rapid fire guns sneeze.

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. Efforts in this direction are usually casual and sporadic. Dante Gabriel Rossetti was a lover (and user) of out-of-the-way and high-sounding words, and after his death his brother, William Michael, found long lists of such words dug from Chaucer and the old romants or made up by himself during happy moments of inspiration and written down for reference when actual composition was under way. Among some hundreds i nthese schedules of "stunning words for poetry," as William Michael termed them, were soothfastness, lass-lorn, gonfalon, cheverel, flesh quake, bergamot, jess-hawk, eldrich, grisamber, creance, graeile, knee-tribute, eagle-heron, guerdonless cherisahnce, aughtwhere, jacent, trench-payne; all certainly very beautiful words indeed.

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 eurbed. Perhaps the newspaper correspondent is the true poet of the age. It was Artemus Ward who said that "Shakespeer rote good plase, but he wouldn't hav succeeded as a Washington correspondent of a New York daily paper. He lackt the rekesit fancy and imagginashun." But many Washington correspondents do succeed, and the conclusion is too obvious for mention. We live in fallen times. In another age our war correspondents might be writing epics while the Washington men turned out odes. But possibly we're just as well off.

## VERTICAL WRITING AND FORGERY.

The statement has recently gone the rounds that a New England banker had discovered that the teaching of vetrical handwriting is breeding a race of formany expressions of prejudice and dislike against the members of the house look when they say it. the vertical system of penmanship now generally taught in the schools. It is a sufficiently serious charge to justify investigation and analysis, and the American Banker has made a careful canvass of expert opinion on the subject with the result that the ney system of penmanship is completely vindicated the crime of forgery.

Dr. Pessifor 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. He it is nothing but booze in his blood. says that there are so many characteristics in every handwriting unknown and invisible to the possessor, that the shape or appearance of the writing is of the least importance in seeking the author.

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 samefully examined.

Another expert on handwriting, in order to "lay effectually the absurd ghost about vertical handwrit- looking to the senate committee on privileges and ing and forgery," says that "forgers de not go elections for their next revelations.

aroung 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 The adult acquires individuality in writing and soon departs from copy book forms. The vertical system has the merits of clearness, legibility, and simplicity and is as good as Spencerian or any other method ever taught to start with. Indeed, the less ornate a system of penmanship is the more readily it adapts itself to practical business uses.

### 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. He would have the country believe that New York city already has more extensive postoffice facilities than she needs or is en- Scotland and Belgium range from \$3.25 titled to; or else he knows better but is trying to de- to \$3.40 a sack. The quality compares ceive the senate upon the situation here in the metropolis.

"New York already has one postoffice," he sagely the rise has brought increased supplies remarked to his colleagues in objecting to the Cen- from country merchants who had been tral lease and the Pennsylvania-site purchase, "and what on earth can she want of another?" Denver has only one postoffice, of course, and she somehow manages to scrape along with that. So has Pueblo, and that great city isn't before congress begging for more. And only look at Ouray and Starkville and Bagdad and Wiggins and Pawnee Buttes and Cochetopa, Pope's Nose, Shoshone, Bonanza and Yellow Jacket Pass-all great and growing towns, but none of them with more than one postoffice! New York ought to be ashamed of herself at being found before congress with the unheard of proposition to get an extra building for her letters! Let her postmaster work a little over hours now and then, and there will be no trouble with the mails.

"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. I challenge the committee to show how the lease from the Central is at all necessary for the disposition of postal business in New York."

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? His limited experience and his provincial range of vision wouldn't permit him to take more than a peck measure survey of this question. Or is he in that class of beings which the proverb-maker had in mind when he said "None are so blind as those who won't see?"

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. He has succeeded at all events in tying up the postoffice-site amendment for the present - and that may be quite glory enough

Japan has declined to take the space vacated by 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 gers, says the Ledger. This statement is only one of interesting if it contained illustrations showing how

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

There is no longer any quustion about the presence from the hideous charge of encouraging or inciting 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 anlysis would show that

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

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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. Good ones are extremely scarce and importations from Ireland. favorably with the domestic articles, which are quoted as high as \$4.75. Dealers do not anticipate a famine as holding back shipments.

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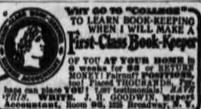
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