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THE CORRECT USE OF WORDS.

The San Francisco Bulletin publishes the following excellent suggestions with reference to the correct use of words:

If education doesn't teach a man how to use words correctly, it teaches him little. Thought is conveyed from one mind to another by words; and in order that there may be a perfect meeting of minds among men—in order, that is, that the hearer or reader may take the exact meaning which the speaker or writer intends to express, it is necessary that words be used and understood rightly. If a word means one thing to a speaker and another to his hearers, they will fail to catch his thought, or, rather, they will attribute to him thought that is not his. Many times persons who are quite in accord with one another dispute because they mistake the meaning of words. It should, therefore, as Herbert Spencer said, be a matter of conscience not to misuse words; it should also be a matter of conscience to resist misuse of them. "Especially," added Spencer, "should our own language be thus guarded. If, as several unbiased foreign judges hold, the English language will be, and ought to be, the universal language, it becomes the more a duty of mankind to check bad habits of speech."

Possibly no other vernacular tongue is so greatly misused by the commonalty as English. The English is a polyglot language raped from many sources, and words imported from other languages, such as the Latin and Greek, are very liable to acquire strange, incorrect meanings. Take, for instance, the word "exemplary." The true meaning of "exemplary" is that which serves for an example. In the popular mind, however, "exemplary" is a word of general approval. Even when used in the sense of serving as an example, the example is presumed to be a good example; that is, an example which ought to be followed. There is no good reason for thus narrowing the meaning of a useful word. A drunkard may be as exemplary of drunkards as a sober man of his kind. Exemplary conduct may be very despicable.

To a precisian—and a precisian is not always contemptible, though he is frequently contemptuous—the ordinary newspaper gives offense constantly by misusing words. The term "real estate," for example, is a technical term of the lawyers and means not land, but an interest in land. When a man sells groceries he does not speak of selling personal estate. Why, then, when he sells land, does he describe the transaction as a sale of real estate?

Another word, commonly misused, is "execute," which is employed in the sense of putting to death by sentence of a court. A man is hanged or shot or beheaded or killed with electricity. It is not the man but the sentence that is executed. "Limited" means restricted to certain limits. It does not mean small or brief as in the phrases a "limited price" or a "limited acquaintance." "Replaced" means put back into the same place. A book taken from a shelf may be replaced. But it is error to say that Mayor Schmitz replaced Mayor Phelan, or that, among the moderns, agnosticism has replaced religion. To replace is not the same as to displace or to supersede. "Superior" means higher. It does not mean able or virtuous, as in the common phrase "a superior person." "Transpire" literally means to breathe through, and is employed correctly, though figuratively, of anything that passes off insensibly. Perspiration may transpire; so may a secret; but it is absurd to say that an event transpired when one means that it occurred or took place. The news of a concealed forgery may transpire a long while after the forgery was done. "Witness," which, however, is a Saxon word, means one who gives testimony from personal knowledge. One does not witness a balloon in the air. "Defalcate" is used in the newspapers as a synonym for embezzle. Defalcate, however, means nothing more than to lop off or detract from. A defalcation may be an act of honesty as well as of theft. One defalcates when he takes from a sum of money an amount justly due to himself.

Of course the meanings of words change from time to time, and what was incorrect in the 19th century may become correct in the 20th. "Pecuniary" once meant wealthy in cattle. "Nice," in Chaucer's day, meant foolish or ignorant. "Fond" formerly meant

foolish. But in words, as in dress, a gentleman should be conservative; should lean slightly to the archaic.

TRADE WITH CANADA.

The rapid increase that is taking place in Canada's foreign trade is calculated to arouse greater interest in the United States in efforts to secure a larger share of it for ourselves. Already about 70 per cent of Canada's imports are furnished by this republic, and were it not for the existence of tariff barriers, this proportion unquestionably would be considerably increased.

The dominion's foreign trade increased between 1901 and 1903 from \$377,700,000 to \$459,600,000—an increase of about \$82,000,000. Over \$52,000,000 of this increase, however, was due to imports. Canada purchased far more than she sold and the amount of her purchases tended annually to increase. Her imports, per capita, are treble those of the United States, and steadily move upward.

It is noteworthy, too, that in spite of all that has been said about the "failure" of Canada's preferential tariff for the benefit of Great Britain, her imports from the "mother country," since the enactment of that law in 1897, have grown from \$29,500,000 to \$58,900,000, or practically 100 per cent. It is true that in the same period Canada's imports from the United States increased from \$65,000,000 to \$123,500,000, or a little over 90 per cent, but taking into consideration the contiguity of territory and the push and enterprise of the American people, that comparatively small expansion of American trade in Canada is not particularly flattering.

This subject of the extension of American trade relations with the dominion is of special moment just now on account of the rapid development of the vast wheat tracts of western Canada. The people who are settling in this section of Canada are destined to become large consumers of many classes of articles that are manufactured in the United States. It is not improbable, also, that we may soon need their wheat to help feed the denizens of American cities and towns. It is notorious that, owing to the swift growth of our urban population, our exports of wheat and of wheat flour are steadily dwindling, and should this tendency continue, as there appears every likelihood that it will, it is only a matter of a short time when stern necessity will compel us to adopt more liberal trade relations with our northern neighbor.

The truth is that had it not been for the prevalence of dense Tory sentiment in Canada at the time of our row with George III, we should today be enjoying complete "reciprocity" with Canada, just as the state of New York is enjoying reciprocity with Massachusetts, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and the rest of the union. That is to say, Canada would constitute part of the great republic, and nobody, for an instant, would dream that the fact meant harm to the economic welfare of the present population of the United States.

THE DIRECT PRIMARY FARCE.

It was not to be supposed that the editor of the Salem Statesman—an all-wise individual, of rare conceit—should recognize that the opposition to the direct primary law is well based, especially as his name was used by the "league" which fostered the measure. We find him now trying to create the impression that the constitution of the United States says nothing about primary elections, from which he concludes that the bill could not be unconstitutional. He suggests that some good lawyer should be consulted on matters of constitutionality—and very promptly offers his opinion. Well, perhaps the direct primary law is not unconstitutional, but at all events it is disgraceful.

Our Salem contemporary, discussing the effect of the law so far as it prohibits voters of one party from voting the primary ticket of the other, asks the following question:

"Suppose the republicans should assert their right to hold no primaries; wouldn't that deprive the democrats of their right of suffrage, the same as the direct primary law does?"

If the republicans should fail to hold primaries, they would have no ticket, and therefore there could be no possible reason for democrats to undertake interference. The Astorian never asserted that either democrats or republicans were deprived of the right to vote under the terms of the new law. Indeed, the law was framed for democrats and republicans. It aims at the right of the independent element to exercise its prerogative. The Astorian still persists that it is monstrous to require a man to publicly announce his political faith before he is permitted to vote, and even more at variance at least with the spirit of the constitution to prohibit an independent voter from expressing his choice of candidates. If there is one good provision in the direct primary, it has not yet been pointed out by the Salem sage or any of the other politicians who duped unsuspecting voters in the late election.

The sting of the ordinary wasp is only one-thirty-second of an inch long; but it's plenty long enough.

The Russian soldiers are paid \$1.50 a year besides clothing and board, and it's a shame to take the money.

Imported Slave Women.

San Francisco, Sept. 17.—Lee Toy, president of the company which holds the Chinese concession at the St. Louis exposition, has been indicted by the federal grand jury on a charge of importing Chinese slave women. Toy said he was connected with a large oriental goods firm in Philadelphia.

Wins Golf Championship.

St. Louis, Sept. 17.—The Western Golf Association team, Captain H. Chandler and Egan of Chicago, the national champion, won the Olympic team golf championship of the world on Glenroy works today with a score of 1749.

Oregon Cow Wins Prize.

St. Louis, Sept. 17.—Orange Blossom, a red shorthorn cow belonging to the Ladd estate of Portland, Ore., won the award today in the class for aged cows, the feature event of the world's fair cattle show.

China's Detective Force.

The detective force in China is a secret body second to none in the world in point of organization. From one end of the Celestial land to the other a very wide open eye is kept upon every man, woman and child, whether foreign or native, and, for that matter, the detectives watch one another vigilantly.

According to a theory set forth by the late Professor Newton of Yale, all comets were originally strangers to our solar system, and those that now revolve about our sun, like the planets, have been "captured" by the attraction of some of the latter near which the celestial visitants passed.

Mrs. Spencer Pillsbury of Mount Holly, Vt., has just received word of the finding of a ring on the battlefield at Spottsylvania, Pa., which is marked with the name of her first husband, Corporal David A. Patch, Company B, Second Vermont volunteers, who was killed in that battle.

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School Notices.

Owing to the repairs not yet being completed at the Adair school building the regular school exercises will not be commenced there on next Monday, but have been postponed until Monday, September 26. The pupils of this school will, however, report there on next Monday morning for enrollment.

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