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BACK TO ORIGIN OF SLANG

Words That Are Considered Staid and Dignified Have a Meaning Known Only to a Few Users.

Original slang is often poetic. Perhaps the best way to prove this to the professors will be to remind them that some of their own worthiest and most classic and respectable words are themselves, if we go back to their origin, just the same slangy vagabonds as these. Examine, for instance, the word inveigh. Max Eastman writes in the New Republic. There is a staid and dignified term, fit to be incorporated in a president's inaugural: "I will not at this time inveigh against the custom prevalent among my contemporaries." You can imagine how it would sound. And yet, poetically, what does that word mean? In means "into." Vehl means to sail. "I will not at this time sail into my contemporaries!" Here is another Latin word—insult. In its origin it means to jump on—exactly what is said everywhere by the schoolchildren of America when the appropriate situation arises.

Diatribes is a pretentious term. It implies something more thorough than an insult, a more lasting denunciation. You not only "jump on" somebody, but you "rub it in." We used to say of a crazy person that he was "off his trolley." And the word delirious meant substantially the same thing in an earlier stage of civilization. It came from the Latin words de and lira, which mean off or out of your furrow. The word precocious means precocious, or, as we say, half baked. Capricious means like a goat, and the slang correlatives here are innumerable.

Imagine some worthy, refined and graduated soul being offended by a young upstart and responding somewhat as follows: "It seems to me you are a trifle capricious. I would hardly expect any one to inveigh against me in this delirious manner, delivering such a diatribe. Is it essential to your precocity to insult your elders?" And then suppose we translated this somewhat according to the etymological dictionary: "You goat! You must be off your trolley to sail into me like that and then rub it in!—Just because you're half-baked you needn't think you can jump on your elders!"

Well, Hardly. "Atlas held the world on his shoulders."

"That's the story." "Still, he probably didn't have his hands as full as the chap who pitches a crucial game in a world series."

Human Nature. That man doesn't live who has not at one time thought he had all the elements of greatness concealed within him.

WAS FILLED WITH CURIOSITY

He Was Just Waiting to See Whether Wife Would Carry Out Threat to Go Back to Mother's.

The man was standing behind a tree in front of an apartment house in a cross street when the cop on that beat came pounding along on the sidewalk. It was close to midnight and naturally the cop stopped and looked at the man standing behind the tree.

"Howdy," says the cop, by way of opening conversation. "You're another," replied the man good-naturedly.

"Whuchuh doin'—waitin' for somebody?" inquired the brave policeman. "Nope."

"Just standin' there, hey?" "You've hit it."

"Live near here, do you?" "Right in there," says the citizen, jerking his thumb in the direction of the apartment house he was standing in front of.

The cop looked at him thoughtfully for a minute. "Mebby it's none of my business," he says, "and then again mebbly it is. I don't like to go 'round buttin' into anybody's private affairs, but tell me, neighbor, what's your graft, anyhow?"

"Well," loosened up the citizen, "if it's a case of me a-tellin' you or you croakin' from curiosity right in front of my eyes, I'll tell you how it is—provided it don't go any further. My wife says to me when I started downtown this evenin', 'If you're not home by midnight I'm goin' to pack up and go right back to mother's. So there!'"

"Well?" says the cop. "Well," repeated the citizen, "It's just about midnight now, and I'm like you—I've got curiosity. I'm waitin' here to see if she's goin' to keep her word."

The cop's curiosity ceased at that point, and he walked on down the street, whistling, without waiting to see the thing out.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Insurance Policy and Marriage.

"The important thing is that the insurance policy—big or little—should come into every home with the marriage license. It should precede the savings bank account, the home, yes, even new clothes, or butter on the table. No man has a right to take a girl out of her father's home without protecting her from starvation in case of the accident of death.

"There comes the unhappy word again—death. Yet the shadow of it need not rest heavily upon us. The unfortunate thing about a will is that it is associated in the average man's life only with death. It should be associated with life. The time for a man to make a will is today, while he can do it with a smile on his lips, and the jests and good wishes of his witnesses ringing cheerily in his ears. Such a man cannot cheat death of its ultimate victory; but he robs it of its sting, for he has made death powerless to bring poverty and distress to those who are left behind."—Woman's Home Companion.

Possibilities of Bad Verse.

No one has yet written any adequate appreciation of the possibilities of bad verse. The verse, I mean, that is composed at the crises of life, on the mountain tops of exultation and in the joyless valleys, by persons unskilled and ordinarily unpoetic. The verse that is hidden away in vases and bureau drawers, never to be shown and always produced in some moment of vanity. Only a true poet could write a just appreciation of bad verse; and from his pen the words would come too much tainted with the implication of irony. The quality of bad verse is not strained. It is written to suit no magazine's policy. It is rewarded with no check. It is a brave denying of reality; a prayer that is its own answer. It is to use Maeterlinck's phrase, "a making or invoking of wings by creatures that creep on their bellies."—New Republic.

Meaning of "America."

What does the word "America" mean? Few know. It is derived from the word Amabrie, a proper name which represented the old Germanic ideal of heroism and leadership. Then the Norman French softened it to Amaury. Then in Italy they changed it to Amerigo. But the juxtaposition of the "l" and the "r" bothered the Italians, and it became Amerigo, and finally with one "r." Thus it became the name of Amerigo Vespucci, a Florentine merchant and explorer. And it is in honor of his voyages of exploration to the new world that a German geographer, Martin Waldseemuller by name, gave the name America to the continent.—Ladies' Home Journal.

Handy Reference.

"Hubby, do you love me?" "Why, certainly, my dear. Just refer to the letters I wrote you during our courtship days."

A Bit Mixed.

He—Do hurry, Kate; the train leaves in 20 minutes.
She (absent-mindedly)—Oh, be quiet! You know it's bad form to be on time.

WRIGLEY'S



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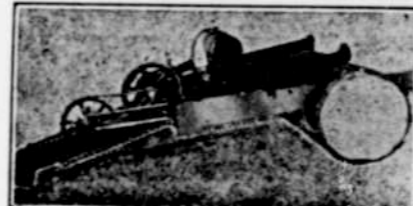
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Matter of Fact.

Great is the power of matter-of-fact, greater and made up of richer elements than perhaps we care to remember. It is part of the power—the eternal power—of the story teller over the mind of man. There is no great story teller, from Hunter to Scott and Guy de Maupassant, who, whatever else he may have, has not the faculty for matter-of-factness.

It is the treasury from which the wit and cynic draw their income, and often the philosopher his capital.

Stranger still, it is the bed rock upon which the poets build their palaces; glorious views from top windows are made possible by the hard substance below the basement, and the men who build without it, trusting wholly to imagination, are not the men who endure.

What reason is to faith, matter-of-fact is to imagination.

The Old Way and the New.

Old-fashioned people used to spend the long evenings of fall and winter at home, munching popcorn or apples over the Bible, Shakespeare or Dickens. Moderns go to the movies and let the Charlie Chaplins and Mary Pick-fords improve their minds.

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P. N. U. No. 37, 1917.

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Tennille, Ga.—"I want to tell you how much I have been benefited by Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound. About eight years ago I got in such a low state of health I was unable to keep house for three in the family. I had dull, tired, dizzy feelings, cold feet and hands nearly all the time and could scarcely sleep at all. The doctor said I had a severe case of ulceration and without an operation I would always be an invalid, but I told him I wanted to wait awhile. Our druggist advised my husband to get Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound and it has entirely cured me. Now I keep house for seven and work in the garden some, too. I am so thankful I got this medicine. I feel as though it saved my life and have recommended it to others and they have been benefited." — Mrs. W. E. LINDSEY, R. R. 3, Tennille, Ga.

If you want special advice write to Lydia E. Pinkham Medicine Co. (confidential) Lynn, Mass. Your letter will be opened, read and answered by a woman and held in strict confidence.