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## BLUNDERS OF SPEECH.

Look Out For These Very Common Errors and Avoid Them.

Every intelligent person is always progressing and is ever indifferent in matters of culture. If careless habits of speech have been formed a determined effort to correct them will lead to good results.

Many persons who consider themselves well educated make the mistake of using the participle "got" in connection with the verb "to have." They say, "Have you got the key?" "Who has got my book?" instead of "Have you the key?" "Who has my book?"

Mistakes of everyday occurrence are "Who did you give it to?" "Who is this for?" instead of the correct expressions "To whom did you give it?" "For whom is this?"

Frequently one hears these errors in grammar: "I intended to have bought a pair of gloves," instead of "I intended to buy a pair of gloves." "It was no use asking him," instead of "It was no use to ask him." "Try and persuade her to go," instead of "Try to persuade her to go."

It would seem unnecessary to tell any one not to use the present tense instead of the past tense when mentioning what another has said, yet a careless person may be heard saying, "He says" instead of "He said."

Other faults are to say "A great ways," "Somewheres," "There's plenty of places."

The contraction "don't" for "do not" should never be used with a singular noun or pronoun. It is correct to say "He does not," and not "He don't." It is important to remember the objective form of the first person singular when a noun and pronoun or two pronouns follow a verb, and not to say, "Ethel asked Mary and I to go," but "Ethel asked Mary and me to go." If one is confused about the use of pronouns in a sentence of this sort, an easy rule is to separate them and use each one with the verb thus: "Ethel asked Mary" and "Ethel asked me." In this way the grammatical form is seen.

It is correct to say "A summer day," not "A summer's day." "Cut the apple in two" or "in halves," not "Cut the apple in half." "Cut the ribbon off this piece," not "off of this piece." "The child threw it on the floor," not "on to the floor." "Whether" is a word that indicates a choice of things and should not be placed at the head of each part of a sentence. For instance, it is incorrect to repeat it, thus: "I have not decided whether I shall go to Boston or whether I shall stay at home."—Mrs. Frank Learned in New York American.

## His Fluent French.

Bedell and Wilkinson, on a trip through France, were dining together at a Paris restaurant. Mr. Wilkinson persisted in ordering and asking for everything he wanted in doubtful French, while Mr. Bedell persisted in offering explanations that were in the nature of criticisms. At last Mr. Wilkinson's temper rose to explosive point. "Will you," he said in English, "be so good as not to interfere with me in the use of my French?" "Very well," retorted Mr. Bedell. "I simply wanted to point out that you were asking for a staircase when all you wanted was a spoon."—New York Globe.

## Gray Versus Brown Camels.

The length of a stage varies throughout Persia, depending on the character of the country, and is reckoned in farsaks, the old Greek parasang. The farsak is a most elastic and uncertain measure, and as animals are paid for per farsak as many as the credulity of the traveler will allow are crowded into each stage. "How far?" I once asked an old Kurdish muleteer, "is a farsak?" "As far as one can distinguish a gray from a brown camel," was the discreet answer. They average about four miles and the stage about six farsaks, or twenty-five miles.—Atlantic.

## His Idiosyncrasy.

Dr. William Babbinton, physician to Guy's hospital in the early years of the last century, was an Irishman. He was described by Sir Astley Cooper as "the most delightful of men." He used to tell of a countryman of his for whom he had prescribed an emetic and who said: "My dear doctor, it is of no use your giving me an emetic. I tried it twice in Dublin, and it would not stay on my stomach either time."—British Medical Journal.

## Man and a Carpet.

Clara—I'll give you a conundrum. Why is a man like a carpet?  
Tom—I give it up.  
Clara—Well, he's no sooner down than people walk all over him.  
Tom—Oh, pshaw! Man is totally unlike a carpet, for the more dust he has the less likely he is to get the shake.—Illustrated Bits.

## THE HYDRAULIC RAM.

Simplest and Best Device For Raising Water by Water Power.

To most people a hydraulic ram is a mystery. As a matter of fact, it is the most simple and efficient mechanical device for raising water by water power. This is probably what makes it seem so mysterious to those who have never seen a ram at work.

Hydraulic rams are not only adaptable for pumping water for household purposes, but they can be used for delivering large quantities of water for irrigation, town water-works, railroad tanks, etc. Where the least possible expense must be incurred for pumping water for any of these purposes, there is naturally a great demand for rams. This applies particularly to irrigation, as it enables the farmer to raise crops at a minimum cost per acre.

Hydraulic rams can derive the power for operating them from a spring, brook, flowing artesian well or river, and if the ram can be located at such a point that a constant stream of water can be supplied to it through a pipe having an incline fall of three or more feet in a given distance, the conditions being such that the power water which escapes at the ram can be drained away, it is possible for the ram to deliver a steady stream of water to a point at an elevation thirty times the difference between the levels of the ram and the water supply. This stream of water, once started flowing, will continue without interruption, day and night, winter and summer, requiring no attention nor expense except for the renewal of rubber valves on the ram once every year or two. This is a trifling expense, as the valves cost but little.

The efficiency of a ram can be very great, reaching under favorable conditions 80 per cent or more. This means that the ram will pump more water to the same height than any other kind of engine which pumps water by means of water power.

The amount of water that may be pumped per day by such a ram is remarkable. It will pump as much as a quarter of a million gallons a day. If a delivery of two million gallons a day is required, a "battery" of rams can be installed—that is, two or more rams are placed side by side.

Where pneumatic pressure tanks are used instead of gravity tanks, rams will not only supply the water, but also maintain the air pressure up to 100 pounds, as may be desired.—Scientific American.

## The Joy of Discovery.

What is it that confers the noblest delight? What is that which swells a man's breast with pride above that which any other experience can bring to him? Discovery! To know that you are walking where none others have walked; that you are beholding what human eye has not seen before; that you are breathing a virgin atmosphere. To give birth to an idea—to discover a great thought—an intellectual nugget, right under the dust of a field that many a brain plow has gone over before. To find a new planet, to invent a new hinge, to find the way to make the lightning carry your messages. To be the first—that is the idea.—Mark Twain.

## Hard Luck.

Two negroes, after having disputed over a certain lady whom they both admired, decided to settle the matter by a watermelon duel, the winner to have the lady. Each prepared himself and appeared at the appointed hour. When the melons were consumed it was found that the larger negro had discovered the greater number. The future bride, having witnessed the duel, wrote the following note to the winner:

"Dear Mr. Washington—I admire your courage, but have decided to marry your opponent, realizing my inability to support any one with such an appetite as yours."—National Monthly.

## The Poetry Business.

Soon after the death of the poet Wordsworth, a gentleman met a farmer of the neighborhood and said to him:

"You have had a great loss."  
"What loss?"  
"Why, you have lost the great poet."

"Oh, ay," said the farmer, "he is dead, but ah he's me doubt 't'wif'll carry on 't' business and mak it as profitable as ivver it was."

## Earned it.

"You say you are worth a million?"  
"Yes, sir. And I earned every penny of it too."  
"I'd like to know how one man could earn a million."  
"I married for it."—Houston Post.

## ELECTRIC CURRENTS.

Why Birds Are Not Killed When They Hop Upon the Third Rail.

While waiting at a railroad crossing you may have been horrified to see a robin or a starling calmly step upon the third rail. Of course you expected to witness a fluttering of the wings and then—death. Instead, the bird hopped along the rail, meandered to earth and hopped back again, while you wondered what magic saved the bird from electrocution.

The problem is very simple. It is not due to any biological difference between birds and other animals or human beings, but to the nature of electricity.

At every power house 12,000 to 30,000 volts are generated, the number varying according to the distance to be traversed. In short services, such as the ordinary suburban service, about 12,000 volts are generated, which are reduced to 675 volts before being sent through the third rail to the substation, from whence the electric current is returned to the power house, so that a continuous circuit is insured. The brush of the motorcar picks up the current and in passing through the motor the electric current drives it, then returns to the third rail.

Now, the tendency of all electric currents is to return to the earth, and when any conductor—that is, any body through which electricity will pass, is placed on the third rail at one end and allowed to rest on the earth with the other, the entire electric current contained in the third rail will rush through this body into the earth. This is what electricians term a short circuit. Now, when a human being or a dog places one foot on the third rail, remaining in contact with earth at the same time, as anything on legs is bound to do, a short circuit is formed, the 675 volts of electricity rush through the animal's or through the human body, and in the case of a small animal, such as a rabbit or a dog, it is bound to be fatal.

It is necessary to clearly understand the foregoing before we can understand why a bird is not killed by the third rail. A robin or a starling, to return to our example, will not reach down to the earth with one foot and upward to the third rail with the other. He solidly plants both his little feet on the dangerous third rail, which immediately is rendered non-dangerous, because the bird rests entirely upon it and in no way has established a connection with the earth. The dangerous 675 volts pursue the dangerous tenor of their way, leaving the fat robin unmolested.

But were a waddling goose to come along and to lift one foot to the rail while the other remained on the earth, its fate would be the same as the rabbit's or the dog's.—New York American.

## One Dante Missed.

We came to a great lake of molten lead. On the banks stood thousands of hydroplanes. Every sixty seconds a cringing shade was prodded into the seat of a hydroplane and compelled to shoot high into the air. When the machine had reached an elevation of 1,000 feet it tossed the screaming occupant out, and he would fall into the lake below.

"What does this mean?" we asked.

"This is where we punish the men who rocked the boats when they were on earth," replied his satanic majesty.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

## The Crab as a Fisherman.

The crab sometimes catches a fish, and it catches it without hook and line. It lies in wait, perhaps in some creek, with its claws extended in front and open. Perhaps a school of killies comes along, and it may be that a killie on the outskirts of the school may swim unsuspectingly along through the clear water between the upper and lower parts of one of the motionless open claws of the crab. When it is well within them the claw suddenly snaps together, and that particular little killie goes no farther.

## Queer Way to Read.

Two Irishmen were discussing the various books they had read.

"Have you read 'The Eternal City'?"

"I have."

"Have you read Marie Corelli's works?"

"I have that."

"Have you read 'Looking Backward'?"

"How on airth could I do that?"

## Now She Hates Him.

"Then you won't marry me?"

"No; but I'll be a sister to you."

"I can suggest a better scheme than that. Let me call you mother."

Then he made a quick getaway.—Pittsburgh Post.

## GARGOYLES OF NOTRE DAME.

These Grotesque Forms Were Cut by Frampton, an Englishman.

Perhaps few cathedrals at home or abroad possess on their exterior so many curious grotesques as does Notre Dame, and scarcely any visitor to Paris leaves that fair city without being more or less impressed by them.

Probably the majority, if they have a thought at all upon the subject, put these down as part and parcel of the original fabric, which dates from 1163. But such is not really the case. The majority are comparatively modern and, curiously enough, were not carved by French craftsmen at all, but by an Englishman named Frampton, a clever artificer who has long since gone to his rest.

About the middle of the last century a then well known London contractor named George Myers obtained the commission to build a large mansion near Paris for a member of the Rothschild family. In its erection he employed on the spot a large number of English workers, whom he sent from London for that purpose. Frampton was one of them.

About the same time that prince of continental architects, the late Viollet le Duc, was engaged on the renovation of the exterior of Notre Dame. When the Rothschild work was completed the architect in question, whose attention had already been attracted by Frampton's skill, offered the latter a position among the cathedral staff then at work there.

This perhaps was the more readily accepted, for during his sojourn in that country Frampton had taken to himself a French wife. Almost the first thing he did in the employ was to produce a new grotesque in place of a mutilated old gargoyle, and Viollet le Duc was so pleased with the spirit thrown into it that he kept Frampton upon that particular kind of work.—Harry Sterns in the Guardian.

## Changed His Taste.

The Empress Eugenie, whom Napoleon III. chose to share his throne, had a ready wit. A distinguished senator on being asked what he thought of the speech in which Napoleon had declared his marriage intention to the deputies, replied:

"A fine speech—excellent! But I prefer the sauce to the fish," meaning that Napoleon's words were better than his choosing of a bride.

Some weeks later, at a dinner given at the Tuilleries, this senator was seated next to the empress, who, observing that after having been helped to the turbot he declined the sauce, said to him, smiling roguishly:

"Monsieur, I thought it was the sauce you liked and not the fish."

With rare presence of mind the senator hesitated but a moment.

"A mistake, madame," he said, "for which I am now trying to make amends."

## The Microscope.

There is good reason to believe that the magnifying power of transparent media with convex surfaces was very early known. A convex lens of rock crystal was found by Layard among the ruins of the palace of Nimrod. And it is pretty certain that after the invention of glass hollow spheres blown of that material were commonly used as magnifiers. The perfection of gem cutting shown in ancient gems, especially in those of very minute size, could not have been attained without the use of such aids to the eye, and there can be little doubt that the artificers who could execute those wonderful works could also shape and polish the magnifiers best suited for their own or others' use.

## Unappetizing.

A war veteran went back to the small town home of his boyhood to attend a banquet given by the old boys. The diners were all men he had known as youngsters. He expected them to talk over old times. Instead, one talked incessantly about his bad liver, another discussed on his weak heart, a third had a lot to say about his kidney trouble, and so it went. When the veteran returned to his home he was asked how he enjoyed the banquet. "Banquet!" he replied, showing vexation. "It wasn't a banquet; it was an organ recital."—Buffalo Commercial.

## A Possibility.

Old Nancy Doane was noted for the striking originality of some of her expressions. One day she was talking about the utter inanity of another old woman in the neighborhood, and she said:

"I never see her beat! She'll top down in a cheer, an' there she'll set an' set an' set, doin' absolutely nothin' fer hours an' hours, day after day. 'Pon my soul, I sh'd think she'd milder!"

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