

There can be no question as to the examples, "Agassiz differed from Darwin upon the theory of development," "one star differeth from another star in glory." The question is as to "differ with," and whether it is admissible, and if so, on what grounds. There seems to be no doubt that it is admissible, but not as an alternative with "differ from." It has quite a different meaning, more, I venture to think, than Chancellor Benton's mere negation or disagreement. To say that one star differs with another star in glory would be inadmissible and indefensible. "Differ from" is used to express mere unlikeness, divergence, in things both animate and inanimate; "differ with" to express the action of intelligent beings—the expression of a difference; with implying the presence, or the constructive presence, of two differing or disagreeing parties. A man may differ from another man in opinion, without differing with him. For one may never have heard of the other's opinion, from which he yet differs, or hearing it, he may hold his peace about his own difference. But if he disputes the other's opinion, particularly if he does so in his presence, he differs with him. Thus Hazlitt, describing a commonplace critic, says: "He is a person who thinks by proxy, and talks by rote. He differs with you, not because he thinks you in the wrong, but because he thinks somebody else will think so." Thus we say that a man had a difference with another, meaning a dispute with him. We should never think of saying that he had a difference from him; nor should we say that he had a difference with him, unless his difference of opinion or of feeling received expression. Therefore, "I beg leave to differ from you" is correct, and "I beg leave to differ with you," incorrect. For what is implied is a courteous expression of mere difference of opinion. And yet in speaking of what took place on such an occasion, it would be correct to say that the one instantly differed with the other. We should not say that he instantly differed from him; for his difference from the opinion of the man with whom he then differed might have been of ten years' standing.

In the use of the particle *dis*, in the phrase, "different from," it is not quite correct to say that the letter *s* has fallen away, since, for the sake of euphony, it is assimilated to the consonant which it precedes. It is not easy to determine whether *di* or *dis* is the older form; but analogy would show the longer form to be the radical, and the shorter the modification. If this be so, wherever the letter *s* does not appear it is subaudium in the pronunciation of the word in which the prefix occurs, by the doubled sound of the initial letter of the word to which it is prefixed, and thus the principle of assimilation of the sound of *s* is adhered to. Whatever may be the explanation of the precedence of one form rather than the other, it is evident that in "differ" the *s* has not fallen away, but is assimilated to the initial sound of the last part of the compound word.

It also is admitted by the learned critic that negation is sometimes intended by the particle *dis* but that negation does not exhaust its meaning. If this particle expresses negation, then "differ with" is sometimes admissible, which was all my letter aimed to prove.

I am glad that, in giving an explanation to exhaust the meaning of the phrases in question, he has given us so terse and generally so convincing a discussion.

I have also to note, that in my letter, there was no intention of making "differ with" an alternative to "differ from," and I presume it was not done. They are not the reciprocals of each other.

To "differ with" implies an expression of difference; and as the word "with" radically signifies "join", the difference is one to which two persons are parties, and the difference is reciprocal. This is perhaps what Mr. White means by saying that the persons differing are present or constructively present. Personally I am obliged to Mr.

White for his clear and satisfactory discussion of these phrases.

Mr. Horne Tooke said that he had been the victim of two prepositions and one conjunction. I think myself fortunate that in an unsuspecting moment I have not been made a victim of one preposition.

A. R. B.

### Fresh Water Algae

Countless millions of vegetable forms are "born to blush unseen." This was originally said of the higher orders of flowering plants. The poet evidently thought of the flowers that would adorn the homes of men had they found a place by their side, by which sprang into being and beauty without being seen by any human eye. The same thing is repeated in a thousand different forms before our very eyes.

Nothing in the whole range of botanical science can surpass in interest many of our Fresh Water Algae. They need however to be seen under a powerful magnifying glass. Thus seen they exhibit forms of beauty equal to the choicest flowers of the conservatory, the prairies, or the timbered ravines. Whoever commences the study of these wonderful forms, if the scientific spirit is possessed in the least, will soon be inspired with enthusiasm by the beauty and variety of their wonderful life processes. There is no period of assumed death to them. All seasons—even midwinter—have their peculiar species. The eternal snow of the mountains, and the overheated waters of the Yellowstone Geysers, alike contain them. In their study the naturalist comes to life in its simplest forms, and for the first time approximates to its mysteries. No one can look through a microscope and see the impregnation of an oogonium without having his joy sobered by a feeling of awe.

These minute organisms are very abundant in the vicinity of Lincoln, but are generally unnoticed by all except the cryptogamic botanist. East of the B. & M. depot a small sluggish stream meanders towards Salt Creek. In early spring this stream is crowded with bright green filamentous, slimy masses of vegetable matter. These are Algae. But this is not the best time to examine them. Towards midsummer this matter becomes dingy, yellowish and sometimes dirty looking. This is the time when these Algae are fruiting, and as these belong to the *Zygnema* family, this is the time to gather and classify them. Another family largely represented in this ditch are the *Oscillatoriae*. These can generally be recognized at once, as they form thick, slimy strata, sometimes attached, and sometimes floating, and mostly with long fringe like rays extending from the main mass. The color is dull greenish, blackish, bluish and sometimes purplish. These Algae can be gathered as specimens at all seasons as they are classified independent of their fruit which is unknown.

Late summer is the best time to collect Algae from rivers. Small bodies of fresh water, such as springs, contain good specimens at all times when not frozen up. The best locality that I have yet found for Algae, in this State is the region along the Missouri from Omaha to Bellevue. Here many conditions are combined that are favorable to a large number of species and individuals, such as a river, sloughs, still water, and dripping springs.

These Algae are somewhat difficult to

preserve for future study. The ordinary way of drying and mounting flowering plants is ruinous to most of the species. They ought to be mounted in some preservative solution within a cell on a glass slide. Carbolic acid is one of the best liquids in which to preserve these plants. Botanists are yet very much in the dark about the life history of these organisms. The classification of them is not settled. American botanists have as yet done but little in this field of inquiry, and less has been published by them than in most other departments of science. In fact, in the English language there are very few works of any value on this subject, the best being perhaps Wood's *Contribution to the History of the Fresh Water Algae*, published by the Smithsonian Institute. Fortunately in the lower forms of vegetable as well as animal life the species are very widely distributed. The principal Fresh Water Algae are common to Europe and America. This enables American students to use successfully that most excellent foreign work, *Flora Europæum Aquarum Dulcium et Stagnarum* of Prof. Reichenow.

### Scraps from my Note Book.

#### I

#### CURE FOR CHILBLAINS AND COSTIVENESS.

In Beaumont and Fletcher's "Knight of the Burning Pestle," occurs the following:  
*Mch. Ay.* I pray, mother; in truth my feet are full of chilblains with travelling.

*Wife.* Faith, and those chilblains are a foul trouble. Mistress Merrythought, when your youth comes home, let him rub all the soles of his feet, and his heels, and his ankles, with a mouse-skin; or, if none of your people can catch a mouse, when he goes to bed, let him roll his feet in the warm embers, and I warrant you he shall be well; and you may make him put his fingers between his toes, and smell to them; it's very sovereign for his head, if he be costive.

#### Act III, Scene 2.

Among a certain class of people, the odor of the foot is believed to possess another valuable medical quality. A woolen stocking, that has been worn a long time, is not infrequently bound around the neck at night for sore-throat; its sweaty filth being supposed to give it a pharmaceutical value far above that of a clean piece of woolen cloth.

In other instances, the uncultivated are apt to use the bodily excrements for ear-ache, for vomits, etc.; apparently presuming that the more revolting the remedy, the more certain the cure.

#### II.

#### THE NEW MOON AS A LOVE PROPHET.

We are all familiar with the "grand old ballad of Sir Patrick Spens," as Coleridge calls it, and the stanza,

"I saw the new moon, late yestreen,  
 With the old moon in her arm;  
 And, if we gang to sea, master,  
 I fear we'll come to harm."

The new moon is thus made to be a prophet of fair or foul weather, and in this character she has long been recognized by the world.

But Mistress Luna has, also, another supposed prophetic office. I once knew a half-witted girl, who, when there was a new moon, would go into the back yard of her father's house, kneel, fronting the slender crescent, then reach behind her and pick up the first thing she touched, and say,  
 "New moon, true moon, come, tell to me,  
 Who my true-love is for to be;  
 The color of his eyes, the color of his hair,  
 And the color of the clothes he is for to wear!"  
 Then she would rise, and retire to bed, placing the small article she had picked up under her pillow; and during the night

was supposed to dream of her future partner in life.

#### III.

#### RACINE'S FRENCHNESS.

It seems to me that the most outrageous violation of good taste, in all literature, is to be found in Racine's *Andromaque*, Act III, Scene 6. It occurs in this form: Andromache, wife of Hector, was the slave of Pyrrhus, son of Achilles. Pyrrhus pursued her with matrimonial offers, which she, in intense devotion to the memory of her dead Hector, persistently declined. So utterly revolting were the attentions of Pyrrhus, that she resolved to let him kill Astyanax, her son by Hector, rather than become his wife.

In this condition of things, as she is walking with her confidant, Cephalus, they suddenly encounter Pyrrhus; and Andromache, like a true Frenchwoman, is made to say to her companion,

"Tu vois le pouvoir de mes yeux."

You see the power of my eyes. If there is anything more hollow and insincere in the whole compass of Tragedy, I do not know where it is to be found. Fancy a woman persecuted to death by the amorous solicitations of the murderer of her husband and family, whose advances she has again and again rebuked, and whom of all things on earth she is anxious to escape, boasting, or even or hinting to her confidant the power of her eyes over the object of her dislike. That power ought to have made her eyes hateful to her; and, if referred to at all, have been the occasion of a passionate outburst of sorrow. But, she was evidently a Frenchwoman.

However, I would not be too sweeping in my remarks about French women. Than *Mme. De Witt*, *nee Guizot*, and thousands of her class, no finer type of womanhood exists. *Mme. De Witt's* books are as good as can be found for the young.

O. C. D.

### To "Our Beautiful Friend".

Bina, the Beautiful, glided gracefully through the folding doors, bringing with her the aroma of the gods and wonder to the eyes of all beholders.

Such a vision could scarcely ruffle the most irritable, however much he disliked to be disturbed. Nor was her surprising beauty her greatest charm. Refined gold is not less valuable or precious because ornamented with costly and more brilliant gems. The radiance of truth, and innocence, and purity; the abiding faith in the Supreme and the human; the fullness of charity which is saturated with good deeds and an unbounded sympathy—these possess an attractiveness as real and more lasting than the warm voluptuousness of Egypt's Queen, or the cold and uncompromising symmetry of Helen. When in one person and spirit are combined these twofold attributes—the symmetry of form and face, and elegance of motion and manner, with that unthought, untaught grace of life and intelligence which embraces humanity in its ample charity—surely then is the perfection of mortality manifested.

But this is not what I intended to write, but rather to defend you and Israel against yourself.

Doubtless the intimate self-knowledge one can't help possessing is perplexing and humiliating. Doubtless also it was quite as humiliating and may be more perplexing to Euphrosyne than to you. With all her strength of mind and pur-

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