

"UNITED STATES" AS SHE IS SPOKE.

I AM free, white, twenty-one and I speak United States," is according to a writer in *The Saturday Review*, London, September 22, the modern Declaration of Independence of every native adult American citizen. We get considerable information out of this article. Take the following as a sample:

"The American language used to be English, of course—English pure and simple, if English ever was either pure or simple—but it has prospered on its own account, like other things American, and now the English language is being Americanized, like the English nobility, and its vivacity is considerably benefited by the process."

The trouble is that the meanings of many words have been modified and altered so that they are quite unintelligible to the Englishman. Here are some examples:

"If a Londoner is fortunate enough to cross the Atlantic, and be introduced to a sky which has not been discolored by smoke, a sun which has not been dimmed by fog, and an atmosphere which the powers have not forgotten to dry, and is as stimulating as champagne, but is unfortunate enough to have to buy a frock-coat—a most expensive article—or to order one—as a rule, quite a different matter—he must call it a 'Prince Albert.' . . .

"If he wants a billycock hat, he will never get it if he asks for it by that name; he must request the shopman to bring him a 'Derby.'

"Should the coverings of his feet be worn out and he orders a new pair of boots, he will be given Wellingtons, which are 'boots' in the American language; if he wants English boots he must ask for 'shoes,' while if he likes to show pretty socks and wears Oxford shoes, he must call for 'ties,' or 'low-cuts,' and 'slippers,' if he needs pumps.

"He will find, too, that he does not buy articles in a shop, but at a 'store,' and he will be sent to its different departments by a 'floor-walker,' not a shop-walker. . . .

"Should he unfortunately happen to get ill, let him boldly declare that he 'feels sick,' entirely heedless of what he would be understood to mean at home, or it will be taken that he is nauseated, for the words sick and ill mean just the reverse of what they signify in London; and if his doctor gives him a prescription, let him not ask to be directed to a chemist, or he will be sent off to a manufacturer of chemicals, if any one knows the address of such a firm, but let him seek for a 'pharmacy' or 'drug-store.'

"In its pronunciation United States is a law unto itself, and if the aforesaid Londoner gets 'busted' or wants employment as a clerk, let him not call himself a 'clerk,' or people will open their eyes at his peculiar occupation.

"Above all, let him avoid, as he would the plague, the nasal twang which passes current for the American accent on the London stage, unless he hankers after being mistaken for a denizen of the 'wild and woolly west,' or as hailing from Oshkosh or Kalamazoo, both of which places, in spite of a popular belief to the contrary, will be found on the map of the country over which the stars and stripes float and the bald-headed eagle screams.

"United States is to some extent an 'infected' language, and the intonation of a word gives it its peculiar meaning, just as happens in that most soul-wearying of all tongues to the student—the Chinese. If any one doubt this, let him listen to two people manipulate that most distinctively American word 'right' in a conversation of this kind:

"How do I get to ———?"

"Go *right* along, and take the first turning on the *right* and you are *right* there.'

"Right?"

"Right!"

"Right."

"The first meaning of the first two rights is obvious enough. The third is the equivalent of 'at once.' The interrogative right asks, 'Are you sure that it is correct?' and the exclamatory one replies as plainly as possible 'Quite correct,' while the other goes away with a nod, for his 'Right' means 'Thank you, I'm off.'"

THE NEW WOMAN.

What she said was this: "I am sick and tired to death of hearing about woman!" This somewhat violent expression is not quoted here to be defended, and it does not need contemporary explanation; it merely indicated the cumulative weariness of long-tried patience. And it must not be taken to express too much. Though women are often tired of themselves and of each other, and do not hesitate to say so, this is only a temporary weariness, and does not at all express the feelings of a misogynist toward women generally. Indeed, this woman who is quoted would probably turn with withering rebuke upon any man who should say that the modern world has had about enough of woman and would like a rest. And the man would meekly admit that rest the world will not have, and rest it does not deserve, this side the grave. No, it is progress and not rest that we need, and that must go on, even to the extent of women forming themselves into a syndicate, a women's trust, for carrying on business independent of the other sex, and dictating terms of partnership. The speaker was not tired of women, but of "hearing" about woman.

Can not women, she said, be taken for granted? Why should she assert herself, or permit herself to be treated as a separate class? Why this clamor every time she does anything, as if it were extraordinary that a human being should have genius or exhibit capacity? Why make such a cackling, like a hen every time she lays an egg? A man does not ask consideration or immunity from criticism for anything he does because he is a man. Why should a woman? The whole attitude is undignified, and a confession of inferiority that enrages me. If I were to take a "double-first" or write a novel, I should be humiliated if I were praised for it like a freak. I am tired of reading about woman in all the periodicals and newspapers as if she were a newly discovered species. Every journal must have its "Woman's Column," its "Woman's Doings," its "Chat About Women," its "Woman's World," its "Woman in Society," "Woman in the Ocean," "Woman in the Pulpit," "Woman in Literature," woman riding down the newspaper columns on a bicycle. And it is announced that this is the woman's age, that woman is in the saddle, that woman has come to stay. She seems to want to draw the line, as she did rather effectively at Chicago in a Woman's building, and to force an antagonism in every department of life. Even in her own periodicals I do not see any column devoted to man. That might be refreshing reading. Woman! Why, she has borne the whole race for 6000 years, and she has got to bear it along in all the ages; she is the great conservative and really controlling force. I wish they would let her alone. I am sick of all this petty talk about her.

The 'Study', has not felt at liberty to exclude this intemperate language from its impartial pages.

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