

**Most Popular Books of the Month.**

The latest reports from booksellers and librarians in the chief cities of the United States (sent to The World's Work, April) give the following results:

- BOOK-DEALERS' REPORTS.**
1. Alice of Old Vincennes—Thompson.
  2. Eben Holden—Bacheller.
  3. The Life and Death of Richard Yea-and-Nay—Hewlett.
  4. Eleanor—Ward.
  5. Stringtown on the Pike—Lloyd.
  6. An Englishwoman's Love Letters—Anon.
  7. In the Palace of the King—Crawford.
  8. Monsieur Beaucaire—Tarkington.
  9. Rostrand's L'Aiglon—Parker.
  10. Uncle Terry—Munn.
  11. The Cardinal's Snuff-Box—Harland.
  12. Napoleon, the Last Phase—Rosebery.
  13. The Mantle of Elijah—Zangwill.
  14. Quincy Adams Sawyer—Pidgin.
  15. The Master Christian—Corelli.
  16. Elizabeth and Her German Garden—Anon.
  17. The Voice of the People—Glasgow.
  18. More Fables in Slang—Ade.
  19. The Lane that Had no Turning—Parker.
  20. The Redemption of David Corson—Goss.
  21. The Life of Phillips Brooks—Allen.
  22. Tommy and Grizel—Barrie.
  23. That Mainwaring Affair—Barbour.
  24. Mrs. Clyde—Gordon.
  25. Life and Letters of Thomas Henry Huxley—Huxley.
  26. The Stickit Minister's Wooing—Crockett.
  27. Rostand's L'Aiglon—Parker.
  28. The Reign of Law—Allen.
  29. Love Lyrics—Riley.
  30. The Conscience of Coralle—Moore.
- LIBRARIANS' REPORTS.**
1. Eben Holden—Bacheller.
  2. Alice of Old Vincennes—Thompson.
  3. The Master Christian—Corelli.
  4. Eleanor—Ward.
  5. In the Palace of the King—Crawford.
  6. The Cardinal's Snuff-Box—Harland.
  7. Stringtown on the Pike—Lloyd.
  8. Rostand's L'Aiglon—Parker.
  9. The Reign of Law—Allen.
  10. The Life and Death of Richard Yea-and-Nay—Hewlett.
  11. Elizabeth and her German Garden—Anon.
  12. Napoleon, the Last Phase—Rosebery.
  13. When Knighthood Was in Flower—Major.
  14. To Have and to Hold—Johnston.
  15. The Gentleman from Indiana—Tarkington.
  16. Unleavened Bread—Grant.
  17. Wanted, a Matchmaker—Ford.
  18. The Riddle of the Universe—Haeckel.
  19. Life and Letters of Thomas Henry Huxley—Huxley.
  20. The Redemption of David Corson—Goss.
  21. The Life of Phillips Brooks—Allen.
  22. Tommy and Grizel—Barrie.
  23. David Harum—Westcott.
  24. The Hosts of the Lord—Steel.
  25. The Sky Pilot—Cannon.
  26. Richard Carvel—Churchill.
  27. Bob, Son of Battle—Ollivant.
  28. Black Rock—Connor.
  29. Oliver Cromwell—Roosevelt.
  30. Janice Meredith—Ford.
- Of these, "Eben Holden," "Alice of Old Vincennes," "The Life and Death of Richard Yea-and-Nay," "Eleanor," "Stringtown on the Pike," "In the Palace of the King," "L'Aiglon," and "The Cardinal's Snuff-Box" are among the first twelve of each list, and are probably the most widely read books of the month. All but the third, fourth, seventh and eighth are by American writers—unless Hr. Henry Harland,

who was born in St. Petersburg of American parents, educated in Paris, Rome and at Harvard, and who has edited The Yellow Book in London for fifteen years—can be put down as an American.

In England the following, according to the London correspondent of the New York Bookman (April), are the most popular books, all of them by British writers:

- Life of Irene Petrie, by Mrs. Carus-Wilson.  
 The Master Christian, by Marie Corelli.  
 The Master Sinner, by a well-known author.  
 An Englishwoman's Love Letters.  
 Hosts of the Lord, by F. A. Steel.  
 With Christ at Sea, by F. T. Bullen.  
 Queen Victoria: A Personal Sketch, by Mrs. Oliphant.  
 Rue with a Difference, by Rosa N. Carey.  
 Private Life of the Queen, by one of H. M. servants.  
 Brass Bottle, by F. Anstey.  
 Eleanor, by Mrs. Humphrey Ward.  
 The Cardinal's Snuff-Box, by H. Harland.  
 Many Cargoes, by W. W. Jones.  
 —Literary Digest.

**Many Misquotations.**

The well-chosen crew of the Bellman, in "The Hunting of the Shark," as readers of that classic will remember, were "all of them fond of quotations." This is a weakness which they shared with the average men and women of today. But quotations are dangerous things to trifle with, says William H. Garrison, in the Junior Munssey, and it is not an exaggeration to say that "misquotation" is the besetting sin of even the educated people, who would fain use the thoughts and words of others to embellish or to aid their own ideas.

A few illustrations of every-day errors will be more convincing than many pages of generalities.

"Water, water, everywhere,  
 And not a drop to drink,"  
 passes current, but Coleridge wrote:  
 "Water, water, everywhere,  
 Nor any drop to drink."

The usual quotation from Moore is:  
 "'Twas ever thus from childhood's hour."

What the poet said in his sigh was:  
 "Oh, ever thus," etc.

One of the most hackneyed and stubborn errors is in these lines:  
 "The best laid plans of mice and men  
 Gang aft agley."

The word "plans" should be "schemes," to reproduce exactly what Burns said.

Butler made a perfectly understandable statement when he said:

"He that complies against his will  
 Is of his own opinion still,"  
 but in the usual form—

"A man convinced against his will  
 Is of the same opinion still—"

it is nauseous. The same author wrote:  
 "Look before you ere you leap,"

which is certainly better and more precise advice than the usual "Look before you leap."

Shakespeare is so badly maltreated at second-hand that it is impossible to give more than a few examples. He said:

"Misery acquaints a man with strange bedfellows."

And also  
 "Dressed in a little brief authority,"

instead of "misery makes strange bedfellows" in the first instance, and "clothed" in the second. He also wrote:

"A looker on in Vienna,"  
 and not "a looker on in Venice." This is one of the most common blunders.

In the famous soliloquy of Jacques, "the infant" is usually spoken of as in "his" nurse's arms. But the "men and women" were in "the" arms of their nurses, and therefore the gender is not restricted to "his." Another passage is usually quoted thus:  
 "Nothing extenuate,

Nor aught set down in malice."  
 It should be:

"Nothing extenuate,  
 Nor set down aught in malice."

A pitfall lies in:

"A babbled of green fields."

Commonly quoted, it runs:

"And then he babbled of green fields."

The "and then" is not in the text, and the "a" is construed by some commentators to mean "aye" and not "he" at all. The context supports either reading. But Shakespeare did write:

"Comparisons are odorous"  
 and not "odious." It is a malapropism that antedates that charming and daring excursionist into the fields of misquotation.

"Now is the winter of our discontent" is almost always used without regard to the context, and its meaning is thereby perverted. A glance at the passage will show that the meaning is that "the winter of our discontent" is a thing of the past, and "glorious summer" is at hand (now) brought by the "son of York."

Shakespeare also wrote: "One foot in sea and one on land," not "One foot on sea," etc., as many will have it.

A bone of contention lies in this line in Gray's Elegy:

"Kept the noiseless tenor of their way."

For noiseless, the practical mind, which refuses to reconcile the idea of a tenor with the absence of noise, substitutes "even," and for "kept" the word "held" is often used. Bishop Porteus wrote:

"\* \* \* \* \* held  
 The tenor of his way,"

which may account for some of the confusion.

Raleigh also, speaking of "floods and streams," wrote:

"The shallow murmur, but the deep are dumb."

John Pomfret said nothing about "Kissing the hand that gave the blow."

What he did write was:  
 "We bear it calmly though a ponderous woe,  
 And still adore the hand that gave the blow."

And Jonathan M. Sewall said:  
 "No pent up Utica contracts your powers."

Not—  
 "No pent up Utica confines his powers."

Two common errors are to be found in variants on Middleton's "All is not gold that glisteneth," and in "Approbation from Sir Hubert Stanley is praise indeed."

It would seem to be almost impossible to go astray in the little prayer from the "New England Primer," but it is done every day. In the 1777 reprint of this book, in which it first appeared, the first lines read:

"Now I lay me down to take my sleep,  
 I pray the Lord," etc.

In the 1784 edition it read:  
 "Now I lay me down to sleep,  
 I pray the Lord," etc.

In the 1814 edition it was changed so as to read:  
 "Now I lay me down to sleep,  
 I pray Thee, Lord," etc.

It will be seen, therefore, that the accuracy of the quotation depends upon the edition from which it was learned.

Pope said: "Speed the going (not the parting) guest;" and Milton's line is: "Fresh woods and pastures new," not "fields." The tongue is not an "unruly member," but an "unruly evil." You make "assurance double sure," and not doubly sure. It is a "wet sheet and a flowing sea," as Cunningham wrote it, and not a "flowing sail," and "mercy droppeth as the gentle rain." It does not "fall" like the "dew."

There has ever been a question as to the good or bad taste displayed in the use of quotations at all, but there can be but one view of misquotations. They are inexcusable, and should be reformed altogether.—Baltimore Sun.

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