
 QUOTATIONS.

The pages of a book, or the columns of a newspaper, can hardly be disfigured in a more needless and pedantic way, than by the use of direct quotations from foreign languages. These quotations are not always from the Latin or French, although such are the most common, but some writers do not hesitate to cite from far more unfamiliar sources.

The use of quotations savors of pedantry. It could be excused only on the supposition that they are generally understood. But to the larger share of general readers, they are not readily intelligible. Such persons are therefore at a loss when a foreign citation occurs, and to them the force of many a passage is lost.

There is a parallelism between the writer who sprinkles his pages with foreign quotations, and the novelist who puts slang phrases into the mouths of his characters, and thus lowers his own dignity by presupposing a familiarity, on the part of his readers, with impolite conversation. If the latter practice is gross, the former is equally an offence to the reader.

The custom is seldom necessary. Clearness and vigor in language require, as a rule, that only common and idiomatic words be used. If, then, words of "learned length and thundering sound," as Goldsmith calls them, should be used as seldom as possible, it is still more indefensible to use words that are not naturalized in our language. Books on travel, and kindred works, often contain unfamiliar words, but the judicious author will so introduce these that the context contains their explanation.

Latin mottoes are frequently used, and they are often found to be both excellent and appropriate; but why they should not be rendered into terse and clear English, is far from self-evident. The notion that a mere dress of Latin words lends new charms to a phrase, is, it would seem, a relic of the decaying worship of the classical languages.

We understand that the Legislature, so august and wise, abolished, by special act, the incidental fee of \$2,00 *per capita*, on the grounds of its being unconstitutional. If so, where now is the student, whose greatest admiration has been the Presidential chair, or a seat in Congress, that will strike for back pay? If he be among us, let him come forth. His claim is no doubt good before the law; and his effort to regain his money, as patriotic as the "Salary grab and grabbers."

 EDITOR'S TABLE.

We were surprised and disappointed that the last number of the *Bates Student* should contain an editorial eulogistic of college matrimony! The absurd arguments and false logic advanced by the editor were enough to make the gray-haired reverend founders of old Bates turn over in their graves. We are ashamed of our brother associate. He seems to have forgotten that colleges are established to promote culture in all possible perfection and not an infirmary for lovelorn lads and lassies. Shame on you, Mr. Editor! Freshmen should be ambitious, earnest students, Sophomores constant and severe in their applications to books, Juniors dignified and scholarly, and Seniors stately and wise. Colleges are to educate men and women grand and true, brave for life and its trials, strong for its work and patient for its suffering, with ability to mine the treasures of earth, to solve the grand problems of living and dying, to touch the great nerve of humanity making it thrill and tremble beneath the magnetism of eloquent, powerful truth. Pale moons, winged cupids with arrows and hearts have no business in college halls and quoting poetry by starlight, in college curricula.

The *Berkeleyan* has one of the best exchange editors we know of, and the last number he made as piquant and recherche as usual, which is the highest praise we can bestow. The *Berkeleyan's* locals are