

youth of a family, who have been taught by the head of it that that particular paper is a standard of good politics, good journalism, and good English. It is usually impossible on account of time, to rewrite a reporter's copy but the editor or copy reader can make presentable English out of poor by a few blue pencil scratches.

The aim of the daily paper is distinctly not literary. As I understand it the function and purpose of the largest and best papers in this country is to publish in each edition all the accidents, incidents and occurrences which have taken place in the twenty-four hours since the preceding issue. Innumerable mistakes in grammar, orthography and style will not disconcert and mortify an editor so much as a single omission of an important item of news. It follows then that reporters are selected primarily for their ability to find news and report it accurately and graphically. Incidentally the editorial columns are composed of comment on the things that happen, praise of the candidates, or the administration, city, county, state or national that belongs to the party the paper, in question supports and criticism of the candidates of the party the paper does not support. Commonly there is a marked difference between the quality of English on the news pages and that in use on the editorial page. The editors write discursively and somewhat at leisure. The style and power of the editorial page gives tone to the rest of the paper unless it be so yellow that nothing can obscure the tint.

In considering newspaper English therefore, it must be granted that there are two kinds in every paper. Unfortunately for the style of the youth few read the editorials and all read the news pages. It is unfortunate because newspaper reading is forming a larger and larger proportion of the reading of Americans. The Sunday newspapers are magazines weighing about a pound and to read one requires all the time the average youth allots to his literary development. It is not the occasional book one reads, nor the occasional lecture one hears that aid in forming the style of youth. It is the books or papers we read every day and the language we hear every day that forms the basis of one's own style or lack of it. Some of the most learned men and women have been unable to overcome the habit of incorrect speech acquired in youth at home or on the streets. Therefore it is most important that the style of daily newspapers in news reports should improve. There are a few newspapers in this country, notably *The Sun* of New York and *The Record* of Chicago all of whose pages have a distinct style. Very few careless, slovenly phrases are found on their pages. The children who read papers of this sort, day after day and year after year are unconsciously educated and unconsciously adopt the style or a modification of the style, so constantly before them.

Yet in reading the papers charity should accompany criticism, and it would if we knew in what various circumstances the news was gathered and how time urged the reporters who recorded it. At night when the giant presses only wait for the return of a reporter who has hurried to the scene of a fire or a murder, when the pressmen and the stereotypers stand about the pressroom and the night editor is nervous and cross for fear that the paper may be delayed and miss the fast mail, a hurried incoherent report is to be expected. The wonder is that it is almost always concise, graphic, correctly phrased

and correctly spelled. There is less excuse for the mistakes in the personal and society columns of the papers. These departments are compiled at leisure and the reporter who records the doings of a composite individual to whom he gives two titles as Mrs. Captain Brown, should be taught better.

Finally in selecting a paper which the whole family can read and enjoy and which will not be likely to present incorrect models for the young there is nothing better than a good weekly paper. The staff of a weekly paper is selected for its ability to write. There is time to correct and revise the proofs and the demon of news is not so exigent. The weekly paper is not exactly a newspaper, except occasionally in one department, and it is not a magazine. But it has the close connection with and breathless interest in transpiring events that a newspaper has and the literary aspirations and standards of the magazine. The weekly paper fills a unique place in periodical literature which neither the daily paper nor the monthly magazine can do justice to. Snubbed by the daily papers, ignored by the magazines, it has a function, a mission and opportunities which it is fulfilling in spite of disdain.

The Short Skirt.

Investigation into the use of the bicycle for sport indicates that it is used principally as a means of rapid locomotion and not for the fun of making the wheels go round. Bicycle clubs the country over languish, and bicycle races no longer attract a crowd. It has reached the level of any other vehicle of locomotion. As there are no buggy, coupe, or trap clubs, there will soon be no bicycle clubs. Not that wheeling has become unpopular but only a matter of course. The manufacturers have settled down to make wheels as they make buggies, sure that the demand for them will be steady.

The passing of the bicycle from the field of recreation to that of serious business is quietly effected and is of no particular consequence. In taking its place, however, among the humdrum machinery of everyday manipulation a recognition of what the little two-wheeled safety has accomplished is historically its due.

Aristocrats accomplish no permanent reforms. A change of custom or of costume can only be accomplished by the people. Reforms come from below. Fifty years ago Mrs. Bloomer becoming convinced of the unsanitary character of long skirts, their inconvenience and their bondage invented a very ugly costume or part of a costume which was called bloomers. Many rich ladies of the highest station and of great influence accepted Mrs. Bloomer's logic and conscientiously tried to use it. But the gamins hooted at the ladies in bloomers and their use, from the first, was a martyrdom to themselves and a mortification to the friends of the converts. Nevertheless, since Mrs. Bloomer's day many English women have continued to wear bloomers, and they are about to celebrate in England the fiftieth anniversary of their introduction. Bloomers and the reasons for their adoption have probably had an influence in bringing about the era of short skirts. But unless it were practically impossible to wear long skirts and ride a bicycle at the same time, the world-old fetters of long skirts would still be clinging to the limbs of even the athletic girl. The assumption of the shortskirt was undeniably hastened by the use of the trailing skirts which fashionable women have been dragging over unspeakable side

walks for the last two years. Their untidiness and unfitness for the street was so apparent that the bicycle skirt's reign became, from their first appearance certain. The fashionable world aided in the reform, really accomplished by shop girls and business women by adopting their style of street dress. That the decree came from the last two, however, is admitted by students of dress and the origin of radical changes in it.

It is discouraging to the reformers that the popularity of the bicycle has effected what the most aristocratic, influential, and determined, utterly failed in. The other part of the moral is that the world moves almost at its own gait in spite of reform and that no amount of talk, logic, and good examples, will destroy an out-of-date ridiculous custom, like a little mechanical contrivance with which the foolish old custom is incompatible.

Matrimonial Speculations.

Admiral Dewey's wife being dead the society reporters on Washington and New York papers are kept busy speculating as to his probable choice of a companion. The Admiral's chivalry and politeness to all women increase the difficulties of the reporters. The Admiral is not accustomed to appropriate much of praise and cheering that is really intended for him. When it comes to selecting one of the beautiful and fascinating women who will smile upon him in Washington or New York, his gentleness and fear of causing pain or disappointment may induce him to hesitate until the danger is entirely past and he is again on the open seas.

The Trust Conference.

One of the remarkable characteristics of the trust conference in Chicago was the number of college professors who participated in the discussions and the consideration paid to their conclusions and conservative statements. If economics were considered now, as it was a few years ago, an exact science, professors of the science would have been paid scant attention in a gathering of politicians and business men like that at Chicago. By giving up all dogma and studying the comedie humaine at first hand and in the open air, end of the century economists have been able to make some valuable deductions and the business man, politician, lawyer, trades-union leader, and socialist are willing to listen to his conclusions.

The personnel of the conference was remarkable because it represented so many kinds of men and because of the toleration of their attitude towards each other. The practical politician, the labor leader, the single taxers, the professors of political economy, reformers, journalists, bankers, clergymen, railroad men, and farmers—formed the audience, and at times the speakers.

According to Dr. E. Benjamin Andrews in *The Review of Reviews* "Benjamin Tucker, the anarchist, was on the program and said out his whole say, listened to with profound attention from beginning to end and applauded, as few speakers were."

Dr. Andrews summarizes the result of the conference thus: "The view of most of the political economists in the conference—who contributed the bulk of the seasoned thinking—that trusts are mainly, though not wholly, the result of economic evolution, so that all talk of suppressing them is idle; that they may become very deleterious, notwithstanding this, raising the effective cost of goods to consumers, erecting and intensifying class distinctions, retarding industrial invention, and

vitiating our political life; and that therefore they must be carefully watched and studied, till we see what regulation of them is necessary, and then checked and snubbed by legislation, as they can be if proper wisdom is exercised to keep them the servants of the people and not let them become its oppressors."

The Yacht.

One of those Americans who seem to know just what the American people in forty-five different states, and just what the English living on the island clear across the Atlantic ocean, think and feel about any subject, said the other day, that neither the English nor the American people were very much interested in this yacht race. The reason is, he said, because Mr. Iselin, the owner of Columbia is a rich man and an aristocrat and the common people feel that the victory if he wins it, will not be particularly an American victory. Sir Thomas Lipton has been and is "in trade" he is an Irishman and his title is of recent bestowal. Not that any of these facts make any difference. He is a very fine fellow and has shown himself a thorough sportsman and his business ability and energy make him all the more acceptable to Americans. In consequence of buying and selling tea though, he is not, strictly speaking, a swell when he is at home and the real swells have been overheard to express a fear that his success might inflate his pretensions to a society they do not consider him entitled to.

In this country, schoolboys on their way to school no longer converse about the teacher nor their own championship games of football but about the Columbia and the Shamrock and which will win, though the inland schoolboy does not know a yacht from a schooner. In England the crowds on the street, around the newspaper offices belie the intimation of the man who knows he knows and the amount of space occupied by yacht gossip in the newspapers is a fair indication of the interest the two countries take in the race.

The Boers.

The Boer population of the Transvaal is about 100,000 souls. And there are about as many Boers in the Orange Free State as in the Transvaal. The black natives of the country at present controlled by the Boers number about 750,000. No one knows whether these black natives would take part in the conflict, and if they did which side they would choose to fight on. Although England is so much stronger, these unknown conditions of the struggle are influencing her to be cautious in beginning the war.

The Admiral's Advice.

"Send more warships and soldiers to the Philippines," was Admiral Dewey's advice to the President who accepted it as from the greatest and wisest authority on the Philippines and the Philippines. Men and ships will be dispatched to the Philippines as fast as possible. Their arrival may demonstrate to the islanders that although they may have sympathizers in this country, they are not enough to afford them any help or to prevent the firmly fixed national purpose from being carried out.

Mr. Thomas L. Kimball.

In Mr. Kimball's sudden death Nebraska loses another of the finely poised, high bred pioneers who have helped in themselves and in their children to give Nebraska its prestige. Mr. Kimball is not only a loss to Omaha but to the state.