

into poetry. The Woman's Weekly says the phrase was used fifty-seven times in two hours at one of the sessions of the Federation. If it were the most telling and neatest of phrases such popular use would condemn it.

Few ministers fastidiously select their words and phrases. A great many public speakers pay no especial attention to the formation of their sentences and to the form of their addresses. Consequently every professional newspaper man or woman who listens to them is made nervous. It is as if a master carpenter with his hands tied were set to watch an apprentice who drove in nails head first, and whose every blow was splitting straight-grained white pine into kindling wood. Very often a public speaker has some original and valuable ideas to impress upon his audience, but because they are obscured by slovenly, ill-fitting words they are not remembered. If every aspirant to the lecture platform or the ministerial pulpit, were obliged to write editorials for two years acceptable to a committee of successful editors, the purification of the language, would at least be begun in the exemplars of mankind. The temptation to talk vaguely while the mind is preparing the expression of a really valuable idea, is apparent, and there are few public speakers who do not yield to it. The men who build their addresses with nice care and who pay strict attention to the form of each part, are rewarded by unwearied and stimulated listeners. How many such speakers are there in Nebraska, for instance?

I suggest the editors as an examining board which must approve the application of candidates for the ministry, because successful editors have made long trial of what the people will read. They have pointed their sentences, and cut off the superfluous so long, that they know better than college professors what the public has time for.

College professors adopt academic standards, which are not tried on the people every day. They frequently graduate a pupil with a hundred plus mark, who is a long time convincing others of his usefulness. The editor speaks to busy men and women every day and not to a more or less humble and receptive class of students. The editor is in the current and moves with it. When he stops he knows it instantly by the people and things that pass him. If his lucubrations are read, they must be pointed, timely, inspired, sincere and not dug from an encyclopedia or from any other book. The cry of the preachers that the people do not listen, might be changed to a demand for larger meeting-houses if the preachers were better qualified to arrest attention.

Over Grass-Grown Trails.

After Ten Years, The Coward, At Dawn of Day, The Blizzard, Ash'ey, His Love for the People, and Cherrybank, Stewart, Barnacle, are the seven stories included in Mr. Shedd's book, Over Grass-Grown Trails. The first one is founded upon the recent hard times, when banks collapsed, mortgages were foreclosed, and bankrupts fled from their dangerous looking townsmen. It is a very well told story and interesting to the end.

To be sure they have a way of teaching story-writing at the State university which the untaught or heretical never quite understand. For instance, this story of Mr. Shedd's which is indeed very interesting begins so: "At the sound of a distant whistle, four men, a woman in black

and a boy in kickerbockers, came out of the little station and stood huddling like sheep against the whirling snow that was whipped across the tracks and lined in banks against the building." * * * "The train stopped. The woman in black stepped forward toward the steps of the car—" etc. Now the story does not mention the woman in black again, though I had begun to be interested in her sombre personality. She starts to get on board the train and is held back by the brakeman while the hero of the story, "an elderly man in a long gray ulster," gets off. Now why should the woman and the boy and the four conspirators (just exactly four) be described so minutely when they have nothing to do with the action of a short story and very little to do with the setting. The rule of picture painters is to blur the sides of the pictures, thus directing the eye to the center of the canvas. The principle applies to all creative work. Davidson, the star's leading man, is not completely described. We only know that he had "cold, steely eyes," which is of course enough, to identify him as the villain. Yet the costumes of the woman and the little boy, who have so little to do with this story are described. The object is doubtless to make the outlines very definite and sharp at the beginning in order that at the first view of the hero he may have surroundings like folks and be not suspended in thin air like the coffin of Mahomet which might lead to his rejection as something supernatural and unorthodox. It's a way they have at the university and Mr. Shedd is not responsible for the woman in black, the boy in knickerbockers and the four men who are waiting for the train as though it were the "Rambler" and Bryan was aboard.

"The Coward" is a very clever story of a young sergeant in the Civil war who killed a bushwhacker and years afterward married his daughter. On their wedding journey the bride tells the husband about the coward who shot her father and the climax of tension is reached. Just then the train runs off the track, the stove tips over, and the bridegroom shows his horrified wife that he is not a coward by rescuing her, another woman and a child and then by dying. "At Dawn of Day" is a dramatic story of how a lynching was averted. The scenes of all the stories are in Nebraska and the models are Nebraskans. Mr. Shedd has painted his stories in plain air on the downs of Nebraska. His atmosphere consequently has vibration and his men and women are not automata.

Noble Oblige.

Advocates of Mr. Thompson's eligibility for the senatorship, he is jeopardizing republican success to attain, continue to repeat that any good business man would have left the depositors to their fate, as Mr. Thompson did when he found out the dangerous condition of the Capital National. It is difficult to discover the average man who would have done this. But if such cowardice and shirking is the habit of the average man the class of United States senators still excludes Mr. Thompson, for a whole state is only entitled to two senators and they should be picked men who in any emergency will do honor to the state that chose and sent them to Washington. There are so many instances in this small city of men who faithfully acknowledged the responsibilities of a bank officer that it is impossible to believe Mr. Thompson's desertion of the depositors of the bank is average conduct. The settlement of the affairs of the Union Savings Bank of this city was accomplished

by the agreement of the officers and directors to pay out dollar for dollar, though in order to do so they were assessed pro rata. Mr. R. E. Moore has never posed as a philanthropist yet it cost him forty thousand dollars to discharge his obligations as a director. It cost Mr. F. M. Hall ten thousand dollars and the others in proportion to the stock held, in order to pay the depositors in full. The settlement is not mentioned as anything extraordinary, because none of the directors pretend to love probity or their kind more than other men. But its contrast to Mr. Thompson's guarded retreat from a peril which menaced and has nearly destroyed Lincoln, is marked.

"His Solemn Word."

The contract with the Fusionists which fourteen legislators swore they had never been withdrawn. If Mr. Thompson is elected, he has pledged his solemn word to the fusionists, that he will oppose the policy of imperialism and entangling alliances, his solemn word that he will oppose any increase in the regular army, his solemn word that he will oppose the retirement of the greenbacks and the issuance of currency by banks, and will favor an increased use of silver, his solemn word that he will oppose government by injunction and favor an income tax, his solemn word that he will keep out of republican caucuses. Mr. Thompson has never pledged his solemn word to the republicans that he intended to break the seven solemn pledges of this contract. His solemn word has never been formally and solemnly retracted, though his men are feverishly scouring the county looking for republicans who will vote for a man who has solemnly pledged his word (and has not retracted it) that, if elected, he will vote with the fusionists adopt their doctrines and deny every principle in the republican platform.

A few evenings ago at a political lawn party, Mr. Thompson in solemn triumph offered ten thousand dollars to the man who would produce that agreement, but his friends listened in vain for the solemn promise that he would not perform his part of the contract, "if elected."

The evidence is indubitable that Mr. Thompson signed such a contract and endeavored on the strength of it to get the fusionists, and the few republicans completely under his dictation, to vote for him. Fourteen members of the legislature make affidavit that they saw the agreement signed with Mr. Thompson's name. These affiants have lived in Nebraska on an average of nearly twenty-one years apiece. Mr. J. F. S. Smith, senator from Antelope county who swears he saw the document has lived in Antelope sixteen years. Mr. I. E. E. Hairgrove senator from Clay county swears that he saw the document signed by Mr. Thompson and that he has been a resident of Sutton for twelve years. Mr. J. R. Morrison, member of the house from Thayer county swears that he saw the agreement and that he has lived in Thayer county for forty years. Mr. George W. Fuller of Seward county swears that he saw the agreement and that he has lived in said county for thirty-one years. Mr. J. H. Grosvenor member of the house from Hamilton county swears that he saw the agreement and that he has lived in said county for twenty seven years. Mr. F. M. Howard, senator from Hamilton county swears that he saw the agreement and has lived in said county for eleven years. Mr. Claus Grell, member of the house from Sarpy county swears that he saw the

agreement and that he has lived in said county for seventeen years. Representative Dobry from Colfax county swears that he saw the agreement and that he has lived in said county for twenty nine years. Representative Crockett of Wayne county swears that he saw the agreement and has lived in said county for fifteen years. Representative Endicott of Seward county swears that he saw the agreement and that he has lived in said county for twenty-seven years. Senator Schaal of Sarpy county swears he saw the agreement and that he has lived in said county thirty years. Representative Boulin from Saunders county swears he saw the agreement and that he has lived in said county for sixteen years. Representative Lemar from Saunders county swears that he saw the agreement and that he has resided in said county for thirteen years. Representative Cunningham from Harlan county swears that he saw the agreement and that he has lived in said county nine years.

These affiants after an average continuous residence of over twenty years in their respective counties would not have been selected by their friends and neighbors to represent them in the legislature had they not been reputable men who could not reasonably be accused of perjury. This evidence, therefore, against Mr. Thompson, is inerrant. He committed the political crime he is accused of, and the question is, are the people in this city and county who know what misery he caused by his desertion of his post in the Capital National Bank willing to vote for a man who has twice demonstrated his unfitness for a representative position, and his carelessness in regard to community interests.

The Real Man.

Patent medicine advertisers and shoe merchants spend hundreds of thousands of dollars every year for the advertising which has been freely bestowed on Senator Hanna. For two presidential campaigns and one of his own in between, he has been the favorite object of the cartoonist's charcoal. His rather handsome features have been given a twist and his portly form an expression of greed in order that he might be fit to use as the incarnation of greed and tyranny. His cartoonists have succeeded in making him a bogey. The real man is a portly, pleasant looking gentleman with an illuminating smile, lighting up an unwrinkled face as clean and smooth as a Dresden china shepherdess. No man as old as Senator Hanna can be greedy, tyrannical, grinding and harsh and not show it in his face. A young man can be a villain and possess a cherubic countenance but in an old man these characteristics have had time to express themselves in his face, and cannot be concealed. For many years Senator Hanna has been the employer of six thousand men. If he were the stupid fiend Davenport pictures him, his business would not have been conducted, as it has, without strikes. And there would be complaints of harsh and unjust treatment, not from Mr. Bryan alone, who knows nothing about it, but from workmen who know and are quick to say so, when they are treated badly. Senator Hanna has built his fortunes and has managed two campaigns with brilliant success. He can never come to Nebraska without receiving a warm welcome, in testimony of his character and his record.

Senator Frye.

Senator Frye announced himself as a forerunner, as one sent on ahead to occupy the time till Senator Hanna