

twenty years ago, much less what it was at the time of our separation from Great Britain.

It is now about sixty years since that separation took place. The language which at that time was spoken and written, both in England and in this country, which was then and has since remained our own, was that of Addison and Steele, Shakspeare and Milton, Pope and Dryden, Thomson and Young, Churchill and Cowper. Has it remained the same since that time? By no means, it has on the contrary undergone great changes, not in America, as I shall show, but in Great Britain. In this country it has remained nearly stationary, Franklin and Washington Irving have both been justly praised for writing the English language with the purity of the Addisonian age. I fear they are *ultimi Romanorum*.

But let us see what changes the English language has undergone since the period of our revolution, and how and where they have been introduced during that time. Johnson's Dictionary was then the standard repertory of the words of which it is composed. A new edition of that work has been since published by Mr. Todd, containing by his own statement several thousand additional words. Where do these thousands of words come from? It is but just to suppose that some of them may be legitimate terms, which Johnson had omitted to insert in his Dictionary. I will also admit that many of them if they were not English at the time of our revolution, still deserve to be so, and may have been without impropriety introduced into the language; but if Great Britain claims the privilege of introducing in the course of sixty years thousands of words into the Dictionary, why should not we claim the same right? It is too well known that English Dictionary makers, to show their industry, will take words, good or bad, from any obscure writer and add them to their list; and it is known also that Lexicographers cannot at the present time follow the progress of innovation, and that new words are constantly employed in modern publications, which cannot be found in their compilations. I appeal to the readers of the London and Edinburgh Reviews and Magazines and of most of the modern English publications in Europe in proof of the truth of this assertion.

I am willing to admit that every change in language does

