

not necessarily imply its corruption. But if we compare the words that may be called "Americanisms" with the modern Anglicisms of Great Britain, we shall find that they have no right to boast of a taste in innovation superior to our own.

The words that have been introduced into the language in America, before or since the revolution, mostly, as our learned countryman, Mr. Pickering, has sufficiently proved, old English words that we have not thought proper to discard, are so few that they may be easily numbered. We call a *shop* a *store*, an *inn* a *tavern*. We say that a tedious discourse is *lengthy*; we distinguish almost every thing that pleases by the epithet *clever*; we call a woman of talents a *fine* woman; we *test* by facts the truth of an assertion; we *advocate* a cause, and when we are *advancing* towards the attainment of an object, we say with Shakspeare that we *progress*. These, with a few more, which do not at present occur, are the whole of our innovations in language; for I do not mean to speak of vulgarisms and provincialisms, confined to the spoken idiom, which abound much more in England than in this country. I may say with truth, that this is "the whole head and front of our offending."

In England, on the contrary, the mass of newfangled words introduced within the last twenty years is truly frightful. I may say they are innumerable. There we find *withdrawal*, with its horrid hiatus, *educational*,* *talented*,† *announcement*, *compromise*, instead of *commit*; to *accord*, instead of to *grant*; *tuition* for *instruction*, *hilarious*, *ubiquitous*, *ubiquitously*, *obsoletism*, *expenditure*, *obsoletion*, *kibing the heels of a person*, *toggery*, *transmogrify*, and an immense number of similar words which I have neither time nor patience to enumerate; we have also the neutral verb to *grow* changed into an active verb; the fashionable phrase is to *grow* instead of to *raise*, and a *grower* instead of a *cultivator* of wheat. We have to *be* done, instead of to *have* done.‡ And, what is worse than all, we have the newly invented phrase that a house is *being* built instead of *is building*. This is a distortion, not an improvement of lan-

* Edinb. Rev. Oct. 1833. † Ibid.

‡ Ibid, p. 162. I abstain from quoting authorities for the other words, all taken from British publications. Some are from *Cyril Thornton and Men and Manners in America*.