

To the Editor of the Dispatch: Will you be kind enough, through your valuable paper, to settle two "verbal questions"?

It is correct to say "a grammatical error," or is that a contradiction? Worcester says grammatical means "pertaining to grammar," as well as "according to the rules of grammar," and if the above expression is incorrect, we restrict the word to its correct meaning. To my mind the word is correct as a "grammatical or technical error."

Now for the second question. I have read somewhere that we are "disappointed of a thing when we do not get it at all," and "disappointed of it when we do get it." It does not seem to me that this is a correct use of the word. I would like to know if it is meaning, by any author of repute.

By answering those questions you will greatly oblige Yours respectfully, MANCHESTER.

1. Surely it is correct to say, "a grammatical error."

2. Worcester expresses say, "disappointed of a thing not obtained; in a thing obtained."

FORTRESS MONROE, Va., March 15, 1882.

To the Editor of the Dispatch: Dear Sir,—The notices of "Brown's Iron Bitters" in your columns have suggested a question, which you are respectfully requested to decide.

As far as I know, Brown's Iron Bitters is a splendid tonic, or Brown's Iron Bitters are a splendid tonic? Both sentences are correct. The neuter verb "to be" may have nominatives both before and after it, and may correctly be made to agree with either.

"Tonic" is the nominative with which the verb agrees in the first sentence, and "Bitters" is the nominative with which it agrees in the second sentence.

"The wages of sin is death," is another sentence of the same kind.

The Main-Street Railway. To the Editor of the Dispatch: The action of the Board of Aldermen at the last meeting in relation to the extension of the city railway to the west of the city is a great disappointment to many of our citizens, who were not less surprised at the willingness of the company to undertake the construction of the tracks on any terms than the readiness of the Common Council to encourage the enterprise.

granting an act to the company's present franchise for eighteen years by an almost unanimous vote. Your correspondent was one of the number who earnestly desired and hoped for the concurrence of the Board of Aldermen in the action of the Common Council, in order that the sublimated notions of certain influential members of the municipal Senate would defeat the measure.

The result shows that our apprehensions were well founded. I neither know nor care to know who constitute the railroad company. Whoever they may be I give them no credit for pluck and energy in agreeing to construct a railway from which there can, for the present, be no assurance of net revenue.

Citizens residing along Main street and in the western part of the city near and near York County, are exceedingly desirous of wishing for this road many, many years; and now that a company of gentlemen with ample means have come forward and offered to construct it, on the same terms that the present line of horse railway was constructed, these anxious citizens, who had the majority of the Board of Aldermen are not willing that the road should be built unless its projectors agree to have the tracks and on the outside thereof—a requirement, we are informed, equivalent to a denial of the right of way.

Their argument is that the road should be built with the view of rendering almost useless for other vehicles than the horse-car, and that the tracks could not be traversed by carriages. It is strange that the Common Council—the "popular branch"—did not perceive in this argument, and did not grant that it presents to the minds of aldermen a conclusive reason for withholding the charter asked for, I believe that it would have been wise in the Board to have so amended the ordinance as to provide that the paying of the franchise should be done at the expense of the municipal corporation, whose duty it is to have all the streets kept in good order. Rather this than no road. Why? Because the construction of this road would not only prove a great convenience to thousands of people, but would prove to be a potent means for enhancing the value of real estate and building up the southwestern suburbs. In a few years the increase of revenue to the city from this source would reimburse it for the original expense of paving, graveling, or macadamizing between and outside of the tracks.

The ordinance now goes back to the Common Council for concurrence in the amendment. If the railroad company refuses to accept the ordinance as amended by the Common Council, they will confer with the Board, and ask for a committee of conference, which the Board will scarcely refuse. Then, if sagacious and intelligent members from each branch be appointed on this committee, it is possible that a report may be made which will be ratified by both bodies, and prove acceptable to the company.

It will be outrageous to allow this enterprise to be killed by stubbornness and an overbearing anxiety to protect the interests of the city. PHILLOS.

(For the Dispatch.)

Chufa Ought to be planted this spring for hogs and chickens, mangel-wurzel, beet for cows, and Lucerne for calves. Chufa should be planted in drilled rows two feet apart, with a distance of nine inches between each seed. J. R. Beaman, Esq., Clinton, N. C., lost his chufa by fire in 1881, but he may know where people may buy it. E. Douson.

The Salvation Army in Paris. The latest occupation of Paris, says the New York Tribune, is certainly the strangest. Three times in modern history has this city been compelled to submit, with inexpressible mortification, to the disgrace of capture; but the foe which has now moved upon it and into it is not Russian, nor Austrian, nor Prussian, nor even British, in a military way. It is a sort which the true Parisian will find singularly repulsive, because a detachment of the English Salvation Army, under command of one General Booth, with two female aids. That Paris stands in need of good, strong preaching nobody will deny—the difficulty will be to persuade the more lively of the sinners to listen to it, while to the average Frenchman that kind of religious exercise will be simply an enigma. General Booth has done everything in his power to make his conference meetings entertaining. He had a female accordion player and a male cornet-player, who play very lively waltzes and dances from Mendelssohn and Strauss. He had an interpreter also, and sketched his exhortations into French; but alas! whenever the times were lively the French unregenerates actually began to dance, and might have danced the gallery down if one of the female missionaries had not stepped in to stop them. The waltz is not like the rock of our faith, unshakable. This had a quieting effect, perhaps only for a time; for to expect a Frenchman to hear a lively piping and not to dance to it would be to expect an impossibility. If Paris is to be converted, it will not be through the agency of an accordion and a cornet-player.

Housford's Acid Phosphate for Indigestion, General Diabetic, etc. Pamphlet free. H. Housford Chemical Works, Providence, R. I.

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