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SATURDAY, SEPT. 26, 1903

All correspondence and com-
munications for publication in the
News-Letter must be addressed
direct to the paper, or no attention
will be paid to them.

AN EDITORIAL EPISODE.

[To the gentleman (?) who, by means
of an anonymous letter sent to this
office attempted to criticise the typog-
raphical appearance of the News-
LETTER, this poem is dedicated.]

A captious critic, well inclined
Ye Editor to flay,
For those small slips we often find
When commas go astray,
Took up his pen, with waspish point,
And dipped it deep in gall
To show how badly out of joint
Were grammar, sense and all.

"Ye last edition," quoth the sage,
(Whose visage was concealed),
"Is villainous from page to page—
'Tis strange 'tis not repealed.
You have condemned in other wits
Sins witlessly your own,
Yet, smash their record all to bits
With slanders you have thrown.

"Such inconsistency is rash,
And all your patrons pray
Ere other pride you boldly smash,
Your own be fixed straightway.
Remember, always, we who read
The burden mostly bear
When you confuse your printed screed—
So, Editor, have care!"

Then followed clippings neatly snipped
From the News-Letter's files,
To show how had ye typo slipped
Upon ye grammar's wiles;
Sad samples of our flagrant haste,
Poor models of neglect,
And styles we crudely had encased—
And never would correct.

So on, through pages deeply writ
With caustic cudgelings,
With reprimands and calls to quit,
And other sneering things,
The oracle relieved his mind
And held us to account
For all the faults his spleen could find,
Of great or small amount.

With contrite heart and chastened sense
We were about to mend
These aggravations so intense?
And dreadful to our friend,
But, thro' our most considerate "specs"
A chirographic fright
Sprawled out, our weary eyes to vex—
Our censor could not write.

So we forgive him, nor we doubt
His pardon for our sin
Of leaving punctuation out,
Or too much syntax in,
Just as we visibly regret
His tangled "P's" and "Q's"
And mystic scrawls that in their first
Impassioned critics use.

And tho' a boomerang we threw
With inconsistent haste—
Just as our critic seeks to do,
With hieroglyphic waste,
We hope he'll live to love and learn
The humor of our craft,
Whereon our trials often turn,
Whereat the world has laughed.

Just as our critic ought to do,
Who knows the strenuous way
A weekly sheet must struggle thro—
When "subs" forget to pay.
For one of wisdom so profuse,
With knowledge to display,
Himself some of it's skill should use
Translating what we say.

And now we offer to our friend
Who seems so sad and sore
Our fine philosophy to mend
His mind—his manners more,
For, after all his frenzied fright
About our public shame
He sneaks discreetly out of sight—
He cannot write his name.

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