A Study of the Diction and Phraseology in Ed Howe's "The Story of a Country Town"

by

Robert S. Shannon
A. B., University of Kansas, 1928.

Submitted to the Department of English and the Faculty of the Graduate School of the University of Kansas in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts.

Approved by:

[Signatures]

August, 1929

Instructor in Charge
S. L. Whitcomb

Chairman of Department
PREFACE.

My interest in linguistics grew out of my study of Anglo-Saxon. After I began that study, words for the first time took on life. Incidentally, the "Historical Dictionary of American English" was mentioned in the Old English class. I became curious, and after a conference with Dr. Josephine Burnham knew that I should like to do my thesis with the purpose of contributing material for the "Historical Dictionary of American English" and the "American Dialect Dictionary". Ed Howe's "The Story of a Country Town" was selected for analysis. Immediately I began my adventure in this strange field, before unexplored.

Difficulties arose. I could not procure a first edition of my novel. In Kansas City, Missouri, I visited the city library and all the book shops; at home, in Kansas City, Kansas, I searched; in Lawrence, Kansas, I spent hours at the Book Nook with the manager; endeavoring to find a clue. I had no luck. Not far away from Lawrence, Kansas, lives Ed Howe. I wrote him to find out if there were any important changes in the latest revision; a letter also went to Dr. W. A.
Craigie. From Ed Howe came the good news that the changes were few, too small to require attention; and from Dr. W. A. Craigie came the statement that if there were no important alterations, the 1927 edition of Dodd, Mead and Company, New York, would do very well. This edition I have used.

To Dr. W. A. Craigie I am grateful for his suggestions and directions in my study.

To Dr. Josephine Burnham I am indebted. She suggested my thesis, she directed my study, she encouraged me, and by her enthusiasm she inspired me. From the beginning her constant interest has been with my study. I am deeply grateful.

R.S.S.

July 23, 1929.
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INTRODUCTION.

The title of this thesis—A Study of the Diction and Phraseology of Ed Howe's "The Story of a Country Town"—suggests a linguistic study. It is that and more. It is an attempt to make a thorough analysis of the novel in search of material for the "Historical Dictionary of American English" and the "American Dialect Dictionary". The question of accuracy arises: Is Ed Howe an accurate reporter of the language of the people he sets forth? This is my first problem. To settle it, two methods of solution appear, each one supporting the other. The first is to make a study of the author's life; the second is to find out what the critics and reviewers have said in way of comment on the life that is drawn in the novel.

When a boy of some three years, Ed Howe left Treaty, Indiana, where he was born, and migrated westward. The covered wagon train stopped in Harrison County, Missouri, and the people settled in Fairview. Here his father began to farm. Later, he built a church on a corner of his land and began preaching to the com-
munity. The young boy grew up in this settlement. At an early age he was required to go out into the field to work. At nights and on Sundays he mingled with the settlers. Many times he listened to his father arraign the "plain people" and conduct revivals for the conversion of the sinners. Although Ed Howe was a small boy the conditions of the community were photographed on his young mind. At intervals he was sent to school, but his true education did not begin until he was eleven years old. In his autobiography, "Plain People", he says, "My education actually began when I went to work in a printing office, at about the age of eleven. A typesetter cannot avoid learning to spell correctly. If I made too many errors in my proof galleys, I was whipped for them, and, desiring to avoid the whippings, learned to spell as correctly as I could. Likewise I learned the construction of sentences...Such education as I have was acquired in sentences found here and there in reading; in suggestions from conversation." ¹ Ed Howe also declares that his life did not begin until he was eleven: "My life actually began at about the age of eleven, when we moved from the farm to the county seat" ² -- from

¹Howe's Plain People, pp. 18-19.
²Ibid., p. 40.
Fairview to Bethany, Missouri. At eleven he began his trade, which he was to follow, in different stages, throughout his life.

When fifteen years old, he left Bethany for Gallatin, where he procured work on the "North Missourian" newspaper. The spirit of "wanderlust" must have been within him, for he began now his life of wandering. In Maysville he was a type-setter and printer; in St. Joseph he was connected with "The Herald"; at Council Bluffs, Iowa, he worked on "The Non-pareil"; at Omaha he was employed as a printer by "The Republican"; in Cheyenne, Wyoming, he worked on "The Leader"; soon afterward he was found in Salt Lake City, scouting around for a Mormon paper, "The News"; from Salt Lake City he went to Falls City, Nebraska, as a printer; in Denver he worked for "The Rocky Mountain News"; at Golden, Colorado, he became the publisher of "The Golden Eagle"; finally at the age of twenty-two he arrived in Atchison, his permanent home. Here he set up a paper known as "The Globe". For a time competition nearly defeated his new enterprise, but he stayed with his paper and many years later forced the two rival newspapers to stop publication.

What experiences he had! Ed Howe certainly should know the life of a country town. He could not
help himself. He was a newspaper man, and came into contact with all sides of life and knew all the "news". The West was booming. Settlements became fair-sized towns. Life was stirring around him. It would be impossible for him not to be an authority on country town life.

Seven years after his arrival in Atchison he began his novel, "The Story of a Country Town". This year, 1929, his "Plain People" came out. It is his autobiography; the repetition of the same events and incidents in both the novel and the autobiography is significant. Howe used in his novel incidents which were true.

"The Story of a Country Town" is the biography of Ned Westlock. When he was still a boy, his father, Abram Nedrow Westlock, who like Howe's father preached, sold his farm in Fairview (not the Fairview in which Ed Howe lived), and purchased the "Union of States" newspaper in the "country town", Twin Mounds. In moving away from Fairview they were leaving a life of toil and unhappiness. Ned had very few friends in Fairview, and those could be visited without much loss of time, for Fairview was only a few miles from Twin Mounds. His bosom friend, Jo Erring, had left Fairview
to learn the milling trade before the Westlocks moved to their new home. In the "country town" Ned's father worked incessantly on the paper. His zeal for preaching seemed to have disappeared. At Fairview he had built a church on his farm, preached without pay, held revival meetings, and finally procured a preacher from the East to fill his place in the church; but he was no longer interested in religion. Ned, who knew only how to farm, was set to work learning the printer's trade. Later, before the boy had reached manhood, his father ran away with his former feminine co-worker in religious campaigns, leaving everything to Ned. Only a youth, Ned yet manfully filled his father's place. Tragedy soon entered his life, for his mother died. No one was left now except his friends, Jo Erring, Agnes Deming, and Damon Barker. Jo Erring had married and complications had resulted through the jealousy of his wife's former sweetheart, Clinton Bragg. From one misunderstanding to another the two young people went, until Jo at white heat killed the mischief maker; later, he committed suicide. Ned, lonely and almost friendless, relied now solely upon Agnes, whom he afterward married. The story ends with a summary of the last years of his life.

In this story Howe sets forth the life in
the settlement of Fairview and in the "country town" of Twin Mounds. In his homely language he tells us something about the life in the home, in the school, in the church, on the farm, in the mill, in the printer's shop, and in the "country town". His characters converse, but they are not differentiated through their speech, for they all use the same idiom. It is the language of the Middle Western people as spoken by Ed Howe himself.

What critics have said of the novel may be seen from the following quotations. Mark Twain said of it:

I believe this is the first time I ever furnished an opinion about a book; but I like "The Story of a Country Town" so much that I am glad of the chance to say so. Howe's style is so simple, sincere, direct, and at the same time so clear and so strong, that I think it must have been born to him, not made. His picture of the arid village life and the insides and outsides of its people is vivid, and, what is more, true; I know, for I have seen it and lived it all.¹

In an early appreciation by W. D. Howells, quoted in the 1917 edition, Howells said:

It is simply what it calls itself, the story of a country town in the West, which has so many features in common with country towns everywhere, that whoever has lived in one must recognize the grim truth of the

picture...The book is full of simple home-\line{ness, but is never vulgar. It does not flatter the West, nor paint its rough and rude traits as heroic; it perceives and states and the results are perfectly imaginary American conditions, in which no trait of beauty or pathos is lost.\footnote{W.D. Howells, Century Magazine, August, 1884.}

In a letter to the author, Mr. Howells said:

I wish to thank you for the great pleasure I have had in reading your "Story of a Country Town". It is a very remarkable piece of realism, and constitutes a part of the only literary movement of our time that seems to have vitality in it.\footnote{Quoted in the 1917 edition of "The Story of a Country Town".}

The Edinburgh Review said:

Western civilization in back country districts has been well drawn by Edward Eggleston, but with greater intensity and reserved power by E. W. Howe in "The Story of a Country Town".\footnote{Ibid.}

William Allen White praised the author and his work highly. He said of it:

E. W. Howe is the most remarkable man Kansas or the Middle West has produced. Moreover, he has written the greatest novel ever written in or about Kansas or the Middle West...Edgar Watson Howe is the best expression of Kansas nationality, and so long as he lives and works he will continue so to be.\footnote{Ibid.}

It should also be interesting to note that the "country town" is not one special town. In reply to a letter of inquiry, the author says, "The town was
all the country towns I have known; more Bethany, Missouri, than any other." From his autobiography the fact is evidenced that the life set forth in his novel is very similar to his life in Fairview and Bethany, Missouri. From all this it is evident that Ed Howe not only lived the life set forth, but understood it and knew how to interpret it.
After having estimated the accuracy of Howe's report of the language of the people he sets forth in his novel, I am now ready for my second problem, the analysis of the text.

Dr. W. A. Craigie's letter of the 16th of February, 1929, pointed out to me what I should watch for in my study. He said, "I should be glad to have material from any of these (novels):

E. W. Howe's Story of a Country Town.
Mrs. Stowe's Old Town Folks.
E. Eggleston's Roxy.
W. D. Howells's Rise of Silas Lapham.

not merely the rarer words or uses, but any good examples of ordinary words." With this direction before me I read and reread my novel, each time jotting down on uniform slips the words which I thought were good examples of "rare" or "ordinary" uses.

Later, I received a second letter from Dr. Craigie in which he said, "I have now looked at it (Howe's novel), and have no doubt that you have been able to find a sufficient amount of suitable material in it. Looking over the early part of Chapter viii (pp. 69-75 in ed. 1926) I have noted the words on the
enclosed slip as the kind of thing to be considered.

Chap. viii.

p. 69 summer school after prep. for settlement n. fork (of a river) hailing distance porch n. gravel walk yard n.

p. 70 wind-mill barn-yard farm machinery pitch v. (hay) pitching n.

p. 71 stand v. (s. the horses) oozy a. feed-box unhitch v. down adv. (=from upstairs)

p. 72 hired man

p. 73 brush heap shingle v. hunt v. (h. a stall) door-plate

p. 75 stair rail "

I was pleased to find that my selections were nearly identical with his. Following these directions, I have glossed five hundred and eighty-seven words and phrases.

The next problem was to make some arrangement of my material. At first my findings seemed too various for any grouping. After several trial arrangements the words and phrases divided themselves into five main divisions. As would be expected, these divisions in the main deal with the features and institutions of the community. The first division contains those words pertaining to the physical features of the community and its surroundings; the second, words and phrases of the home; the third, those of the school; the fourth, those of the church;
and the fifth, those of the various occupational pursuits.

The physical features of the community supply a rather small number of words. The Americanism prairie\(^1\) is used as a substantive and as an adjective. Ned, the narrator of the story, says, "ours was the prairie district out West, where we had gone to grow up with the country."\(^2\) Another familiar topographical term found is bluff, a word descriptive of the hills along the river. In speaking of Indiana the word backwoods is used. Creek, meaning a feeder to a river or larger body of water; clearing, an open space in the timber; and turkey roost, are all terms found several times in the novel. Riffle is an interesting geographical word. From the context as shown in the quotation, "a piece of natural chalk I had picked up along the creek riffles",\(^3\) the meaning of the term seems to be that place where the water ripples. Chalk, also known as keel, meaning a soft substance making a red mark, is another interesting word. Fork, a metaphorical term describing the river; ford, a place where a river or other

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\(^1\)All underlined words and phrases in the following paragraphs are to be found in the glossary. A word without further notation will be found in its proper alphabetical order there.


\(^3\)Ibid., p. 69.
water, may be crossed by wading; **high water**, a word used to describe the condition of the river in the spring; **bottom**, a substantive meaning level land bordering a river or creek; **signal fire; lower country**; all these are rich connotative words.

The flora and fauna of this region are abundant, but Howe has not recorded many of them. Names that he does mention, belonging to these categories, however, are mostly named in very general terms, such as cattle, pigs, chickens, night bugs, and wild flowers. Orchard is used but the apple-tree is the only fruit tree named. Of the many wild trees, he mentions by name only the oak, hickory, and willow, but even here he is not specific. He does not give the specific names of the genus; he does not mention, for example, the burr oak, the laurel, or the scrub; the pignut or the chestnut hickory; the weeping or the black willow. The farmers have vegetable gardens, but none of the vegetables is named. To those who have lived in the Middle West, especially in Kansas and Missouri, such generic terms as rabbit, squirrel, orchard, etc., are sufficient; yet for linguistic purposes specific names are better. There are a few specific terms, such as **fish worm, wild turkey, Guinea-hen, quail**,
thicket, brush, corn, and wheat, which I have listed.

Of course I do not intend to criticize Howe for not writing fully on the flora and fauna. I am only sorry that he did not do so. He was primarily interested in the activities and life of the people whom he knew; consequently, the home furnishes many ordinary words. Yard, gravel walk, porch, hammock, door-plate, and latch are descriptive terms familiar to all Middle Western people. Today, such names as best room and supper room have disappeared. Parlor is still heard, but it is fast giving way to the term front room. Blind, meaning a shutter to a window, has now a different meaning. It is locally applied to the window shade. A common phrase in the homes of Kansas City, Kansas, is "pull down the blind". With modern improvements entering every home, such words as lamp and box stove are going out of use. The comfort of the fireplace, which every modern home either has or intends to have, keeps such colorful words as backlog, hearth, and the less rich word grate, from disappearing. Butcher-knife, match safe, corkscrew, and plate are part of our household vocabulary. The phrase bag of corn
is no longer heard. The word can is interesting because of its familiarity to all Americans. Today even the most old-fashioned housewife buys her fruit in cans instead of spending hours canning her fruit for winter in jars. Plunder room and plunder are rare words. A plunder room is a storage room and contains all of the household articles that are not needed or are put away for later use. Sheet, feather-bed, pallet, and company bed are still familiar terms. Company bed has almost disappeared, giving way to the more comprehensive term, guest room, which includes the bed. The term feather-bed, although known to everyone even yet, has been replaced in the home by mattress. In the novel we have also the homely phrase to make up a feather-bed. Devoted mothers are still making pallets by the beds of their sick children.

In "The Story of a Country Town" the dress of the people gives some interesting words. Wrapping is a general word, meaning any cloth thrown around the neck. In the winter season, the men wore great coats, similar to our overcoats. The scarf and comforter served a purpose similar to that of the present day muffler. The boys did not wear shoes but boots, and in the field they wore mittens. The new
preacher from the East wore side whiskers. Evidently the settlers in the community were not accustomed to such a fashion, for "His first preaching impressed everyone favorably; though his side whiskers were against him."¹ The tall hat which he wore was not approved by the settlers, for it too was "against him".² They did not object to his shoes, but they attracted notice, for they were patent leathers. In one home, as the father was trying to follow the town fashion, the smaller boys wore frocks and the larger, short trousers. One of the town boys wore a duster, a pair of pants, and a cap. A newcomer to the community seemed out of place, since he wore a cut-away coat, a vest, brass buttons, and pantaloons. Wisp is the name applied to the clothes brush; night robe, to nightgown; and walking stick, to cane. From the style of women's dress comes the word Princess pattern. Adjectives and adverbs descriptive of the dress of that day such as flashy, cast-off, smart, smartly, and flashily are good material for vocabulary study. To lay-off (to take off one's wraps) and to smarten oneself up (to dress up) are homely expressions and idiomatic.

² Ibid., p. 59.
The school, an important institution of every small town, has its separate vocabulary. The destiny of the school is in the hands of the school directors. They have their school meetings and select a teacher who is called mistress. It is then the task of the mistress to please her patrons. At first some of her patrons know that the mistress cannot to the work; but she soon convinces them that she can fill her place. The boys and girls attending the summer school are called pupils; Ned and Jo, the best pupils, are designated as the head scholars. The descriptive term school-girl is applied, as it is today, to any young girl of rosy cheeks—of course, not all school-girls have this attractive feature. A copy book is the only school text mentioned, and its purpose presumably is for practice in penmanship. The common expression to board around is used, and the reader compares its use with that in Eggleston's "Hoosier Schoolmaster".

A richer and larger vocabulary than that of the school is that of the church. Such words as Campbellite, hell-redemptionist, circuit, camp-meeting, meeting-house, mass-meeting, experience meeting, prayer-meeting, revival, and the metaphorical term sheep; among other such words are these, hearer, exhorter, shouter,
backslider, missionary society, broad road, cross
(burden), above, below; all go to show how important
the religious life was to the early settlers in the
Middle West. From religious experiences have come
such expressions as to evangelize, to be raised up
(to be the one chosen to do effective religious work),
to take God into partnership, to pass into the devil's
possession, to earn salvation, and to go on (to carry
on, to act). Some of these expressions are no longer
heard. In the novel, pulpit is used, as it still
sometimes is, in most Protestant churches in this
country, in the sense of a reading desk from which
the preacher gives his sermon. Service, collection,
and sprinkling are familiar terms. Turn used as a
noun meaning feeling is a rare word, yet it aptly
described the narrator's sensation when he heard
the hymn sung that described him as a sinner. The
terms well-patronized and hymn-writer, related to
religious matters, illustrate Howe's use of com-
pounds. Great Book of Men's Action is a circumlo-
cution, yet its meaning is self-explanatory.

Music in the church and the home furnishes
some material. Verse is used in the sense of stanza.
The music notes are "written in buckwheat characters
on blue paper".¹ Children's songs are called cradle-

songs. The fortunate homes contained the hornpipe and the melodeon. Today, both of these instruments are unfamiliar to the average youth, although the melodeon may appear among the contents of many attics.

From the earliest times America has had temperance societies whose chief purpose was doing away with the excessive use of strong drinks. Fairview, like other towns, had its temperance society. The members, known as Good Templars, met once a week to plan their campaign, which usually consisted of making an arrangement for calling upon some fallen brother in order to exhort him to shun the cup, in the belief that they were redeeming the country from debauchery and vice. Some words which have come from the variety of conviviality suggested in the preceding sentence are spree, rum, and dram (a drink of spirits). Bottle (whiskey bottle) and cup (glass of whiskey) are used as metonyms. To die in drink, then a common idiomatic expression, meaning to die while drunk, is no longer heard.

The chief occupation in the new West was farming or agriculture. Naturally, much dictionary material relating to this activity would be expected; however, the contributions are not extensive. The farm machinery mentioned consists of the grindstone, cultivator, and single shovel plough. The wind-mill is
part of the equipment of the smaller farms today, yet it, like many of the farm implements, is now being replaced by electrical contrivances. Corn and hay are the only crops mentioned. Cornfield, plough-field, orchard, and pasture are the words used to describe the topography of the farm. Rural life furnishes the common words barnyard, stable, stall, feed box, and hay-loft. From the activity of searching for a stall at night comes the colloquial phrase to hunt a stall. The hired man and bound boy constituted the extra help on the farm. The term full-hand is an apt coinage, applied to the boy who does a man's work. In the morning the boys build the early fires and do the early feeding. Some other descriptive phrases relating to farm life are to cord, to pitch (hay), to hold a plow, and to turn out (to leave the plough-field). From the verb to pitch (hay) probably originates the substantive pitching; from the method of plowing, going around and around the field, making rounds, comes the substantive round. Team is sometimes used comprehensively, including the horse and the vehicle. From the handling of horses come such expressions as to hitch, to unhitch, to stand (the horses), to break, (to tame),
and to be jaded (to be worn out).

Fairview had no barber; nor could Twin Mounds boast of a barber shop. The boys had their hair shingled at home. When their hair was cut unusually close, they were said to be bald. Today, this adjective has a different meaning. One who is destitute of hair on his head is said to be bald.

Among other occupational pursuits in the settlement appeared shingle-making and milling. The most obvious terms from the first pursuit are shingle-maker and shingle; from the latter come such ordinary words and expressions as water-mill, grist, workings (operations), to follow (milling for a business), to run (to work machinery), and to be out of one's time (to have served apprenticeship).

The building of the homes in Fairview provided an interesting sight. When a new home was to be put up, the settlers turned out to what was called the raising. Logs were hewn or framed, rolled into place, and pinned. The rafters were left exposed in the poorer houses. In the two story homes the children slept in the attic.

In the country town, life was different from that in the settlement. There were the business men:
the druggist or drug-storekeeper, the leather dealer, the storekeeper, the shoemaker, the saddler, the medical man, and the printer; and the laboring men; the Jacks—brief for the agglutinated word Jacks-of-all-trades—, and those men who hauled. Today, the government hires the last class of men with their teams and designates them on the payrolls as teamsters.

The man who happened to be the deepest in debt in Twin Mounds was the leading citizen. Recent arrivals were called new-comers. A familiar figure was the commercial traveler. The term boarder was applied to the men who lived at the hotel; and renter was the name given to those citizens who rented their houses from others. Newly elected county officers were called the new set. The town marshal must have been the most powerful of the new set, for he was the only officer mentioned.

Of the various occupations of the town mentioned in the book, printing is the only one discussed. The newspaper published is called by its clipped form paper. The items (local news) were gathered, and on press day (printing day) the presswork (printing) was extremely tedious and required a great deal of time, for the press (printing press) was of the hand-type. In addition to the
press, the printing room contained the stand (the table on which the trays of type were set) and the hand roller. Other words or expressions which belong to the printing vocabulary are hand bill, to subscribe, to be put (about something), (to be given a task).

The plan of the town is interesting, in that it is typical of many Kansas towns. From a trading place, called an agency—the manager was known as Indian agent—where the Indians came to draw (supplies), the place developed into a small town built around the court house. On each side of the court house was a street running parallel to the street on the opposite side. Across from the court house were grouped the other buildings: the stone jail, the post office, the drug store, the leather store, and the wooden stores. Outside the square, the name applied to the conformation of the court house as the center and the business buildings directly opposite the four sides of the court house, stood the residences. Some distance beyond the town lay a trading-place, and a sugar-camp. Manufactory (factory) and woolen mills are spoken of as being in the city. Poor-house and asylum are mentioned
in a mildly sarcastic tone as the future home of some people.

The foregoing illustrations are typical of the material which has been included in this linguistic study. These and other words and phrases are found in the glossary which follows.
Some of the material from this study may be best treatedmiscellaneously, especially the data which pertain to the phraseology and diction in "The Story of a Country Town".

When considering the diction and phraseology of Ed. Howe's novel, we must remember Howe's early life. He was born and reared among uneducated folk, went to school only at intervals while living on the farm, and then at eleven he began his life career by entering his father's printing office. From then until he was twenty-two he wandered from one country town to another in the Middle West, working on various newspapers. The language of the frontier people with whom he lived was the language that he knew best. The current idioms and phraseology of these people were a part of his vocabulary; and these idioms and homely expressions are found to a good extent in his novel.

As the dialogue is the same for all the characters in the story (the author makes no attempt to spell words as they were pronounced or to vary the vocabulary for the different characters), the language
is entirely that of the author.

There are some grammatical slips; however, these slips are noteworthy, for they are those made by these Middle Western people. In one instance which is used in reference to a person in "I bore the child, which has grown steadily". The colloquial might of for "might have" occurs in one place. A dangling participle creeps into one sentence, "Leading the way up stairs, I meekly followed." Don't is used with a third person, singular subject. Clinton Bragg, the villain, says, "Martin don't drink." "Will" and "shall" are used interchangeably. The subjunctive mood is practically done away with except in a few cases. It is rarely used after as though and "as if".

The extensive use of compounds give the writing a distinct character. Some of the racy ones are fierce-looking, mild-eyed, cast-off-clothing, good-natured, wax-faced, best-dressed, dried-up, hard-trotting, fair-haired, half-boisterous, long-contemplated, white-headed, fresh-looking (woman), old-fashioned, and well-bred. Another interesting formation is that of nouns formed

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1 See Glossary under which.
2 "The Story of a Country Town", p. 79.
3 Ibid., p. 151.
from the verb by affixing "er" to the infinitive stem, as in hearer, maker, owner, mover, looker-on, exhorter, laugher, shoemaker, shouter, and adviser.

The difference in the use of various prepositions from that of today is interesting. Of is used for "from" in the sentence "a man... had collected his money of a railroad." In meaning "of" appears in "It is very polite in you to say so", and in "I had never seen any other kind in the road" "on" would be used today. In speaking of waiting for dinner, the author writes that "the two boys were compelled to wait at dinner". His people play games at cards instead of games of cards. At in the sense of "because of" is used in "which made me very uncomfortable at my bad manners". Than meaning "except" is found frequently, as in "I could do nothing else than murder him." A striking use of of in the sense of "for" is seen in many cases as, for example, in

1 See Glossary under of.
2 Under in.
3 Under in.
4 Under at.
5 Under at.
6 Under then.
the following sentences: "They say you are old of your age. I am not old of my age" 1 and "he was...a...long boy of his age." 2

Another peculiarity in the language of Howe is the use of ellipses. These are found, in the main, in prepositional phrases, as illustrated in the following quotations: "Where the backlog would have been blazing in (the) winter" 3 and "It became certain, in (the) course of time". 4

In some of the long compound-complex sentences the subjects are omitted, as in "If one of the drivers asked me how far it was...I supposed he had heard of my wonderful learning, and (I) took great pains to describe the road..."; 5 "He looked at me as if thinking I was larger or smaller than he had imagined, and (he) continued apparently in better humor"; 6 "I had been wishing all evening that Agnes would come in, and ask me to sing, as I

1See Glossary under of.
2Under of.
4Ibid., p. 91.
5Ibid., p. 11.
6Ibid., p. 69.
thought I had talent in that direction, and (I) even debated in my mind whether I would sing..."; and "I cannot remember now whether I thought a sight of them would cause him a burst of grief or anger, but (I) hoped to be of use to him...". 

The relative pronouns are lacking in many instances, as shown in the two isolated sentences: "it was a town joke on Bragg (which) he did not enjoy" and "I put the horses in the stable (which) I had become familiar with...". In some of the longer sentences both the subject and verb are omitted, as illustrated in the following statements: "he could sleep soundly again as he did when (he was) a boy"; and "I remember that I would look over it carefully on press days, and, thinking that there was not a paragraph of news or comment which was not either old or silly, (I would) almost conclude not to print it at all.

1"The Story of a Country Town", p. 79.
2Ibid., p. 306.
3Ibid., p. 168.
4Ibid., p. 240.
5Ibid., p. 221.
but if it was an hour late in issuing, a great many called to complain, which led me to believe that they had nothing else to do, and were anxious to get a copy and make fun of it."

The preceding statement is a typical Ed Howe sentence. He makes little use of the simple sentence, but favors the compound-complex variety, which runs on and on, almost interminably, it seems. Dashes and parentheses are utilized interchangeably for bringing in side remarks. This device not only makes the sentence longer but gives the writing a conversational quality, as shown in the following illustrations: "one of these occasions I became ill while returning home—a slight difficulty, it must have been, for I was always stout and robust—and he carried me all the way in his arms" 2 and "The older (and I may add the worse) one was probably named Hardy, but he was always known as Hard." 3

Many terms of reproach, especially inten-

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2 Ibid., p. 22.

3 Ibid., p. 40.
sives, are distributed through the story, placed so as to accentuate the homely style. The metaphorical scarecrow is used to describe Grandmother Erring, who, it is said, "went in...to...give him (Bragg) to understand that she was too old a bird to be frightened by such a scarecrow". Big Adam in a bitter, cynical tone speaks of his hated missus as being fit only to wear a shroud on her old bones. Some other terms of disparagement are whiffet (a small or insignificant person), specimen for a museum, bird (one who dresses too fine for the community in which he lives), packhorse (one who does all the work without complaining), lout, libertine, for, loafer, upstart, wreck, vagabond.

Brave Jo and old boy are terms of encouragement. Some of the expressions, such as bless you, heaven help you, best friend in the world, and worst overrated man in America, are current in our speech of today.

The diction and phraseology can be best shown through examples. To drive up (to arrive with

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1See Glossary under scarecrow.
horse and buggy), to take in (to conduct into the house), and to salute (to greet) were used in connection with the arrival of guests. Around the dinner table in Mr. Biggs's home were heard the slangy verb-phrases to fall to (to start eating), to shovel (to eat), and to bolt (to swallow). The boys when visiting Damon Barker were told stories until late in the night, and then they were lighted to their room. In the morning at Grandma Erring's Ned was pulled into his clothes. At home in the morning the boys had to hurry on their clothes which they had left in a pile to go on the first thing when they were awakened. The Biggs children were described as tearing out into the hall to see the guest. Then the children at Fairview were raised, not reared. Other phrases like the following are compact, graphic, and expressive: to be possess of (e.g., to have a child), to come on (to be born), to take something to heart, to fare (to get along), to hold up (to hold oneself back by force, to restrain oneself), to take up (to become occupied with), to bridge, to get on (to be friendly), to break down (to lose control of oneself), to be bad off (to be severely
ill), to tell on (to leave marks of time on),
to banter (to dare), to jaw at (to fuss at),
to turn up one's nose, to take one's measure
(to "size" one up), to be railed at (to be scolded
at in a loud voice), to be found out (to be known
for what one is), to hit upon a plan (to find a
workable plan), to remark (to notice), to make up
(to be friendly), to lead (to respond to the driver),
to break the news, to root something out, to move
(to influence), to hold one's peace (to keep calm),
to be given (to be inclined, to be disposed), to
put oneself in one's way (to make one's self useful),
to bolt out of a room (to leave a room hurriedly),
to heft (to try the weight of by raising), to go
down (to sink), to be voted (to be declared by com-
mon consent), to rain pitchforks, to take (to adopt),
and to pull a boat (to row a boat).
GLOSSARY.

A

above, adv., in heaven

... the lake of fire he thought of as a remedy for the great number of disagreeable people with whom he was compelled to come in contact below, and of whom he would be happily rid above.

acre, n.

I should be delighted to show you how we carry on a four hundred acre farm.

Mr. Biggs

adieu, n.

... but his adieus and greetings were so appropriate, natural, and easy.

adviser, n.

... nobody was like Agnes Deming, for she was everybody's friend and adviser.

after, prep., for

... and after taking unusual pains with my toilet, she asked Jo to cut my hair.

agency, n.

Twin Mounds was originally an agency, where the Indians came to draw their supplies.
I believe you came of an agricultural family yourself.

Mr. Biggs

Mr. Shepherd had applied himself with industry to agriculture . . .

... many ... who came first had money ahead . . .

... after . . . having a laugh all around with the family . . . we went to bed . . .

... the men were always looking for amours, but never found them, and believed that others were notoriously successful . . .

I have been as anxious to come as you have been anxious to see me, for I have been very lonely since you went away.

Ned
apartment, n., room

He had an office and apartments over a leather store a few doors above the place where I worked . . .

as though, conj.

. . . she looked as though she was expecting the house to blow up.

asylum, n., home for the insane

He talked . . . of how the people . . . would say his brain was softening, or that he ought to be sent to an asylum . . .

at, prep.

I cannot approve of this act, Jo, the first one you ever did at which I could not cry, "Brave Jo!"

Ned.

at, prep., because of

I thought that he must be apologizing for his guest, which made me very uncomfortable at my bad manners, for up to that time I had not been backward in falling to.

at, prep., for

It was sometimes the case that when there was company Jo and I were compelled to wait at dinner, but I was glad that on this day Jo was seated next Mateel, and did not suffer the humiliation.
at, prep., from  

I received a note from Barker one morning, at the hands of Big Adam . . .

at, prep., of  

. . . when we played the games at cards he taught us . . .

attention, n.  

If I were a little older I would fall in love with you, and worry you a great deal with my attentions.

Ned
backlog, n. p. 29.
I found my grandfather . . . and my grandmother . . . looking . . . into the cavernous recess where the backlog would have been blazing in winter.

backslider, n. p. 154.
There were a great many backsliders, but none of them ever questioned religion itself . . .

backwoods, n. p. 16.
It is not probable that he knew anything about them except from hearsay, as he had always been out of temptation's way—in the backwoods during his boyhood, and on the prairie during his maturer years.

bag, n. p. 143.
. . . pointing at me as if I were a bag of corn.

bagging, n., cloth or material for bags p. 287.
His shoes were wrapped in coarse bagging, which was tied to his feet with cords . . .

He shingled hair in a superb manner . . . he practiced on me so much that I was nearly always bald.
I again bantered Agnes to look into the hall.

Owing to the child, I was disposed . . . to make the best of a bad bargain, but in this she would not assist.

A broken . . . wind-mill stood in the barn-yard . . .

although she was undoubtedly bad off this time, we didn't believe it.

Big Adam

I was subject to the beck and nod of every ridiculous man in the community . . .

. . . the lake of fire he thought of as a remedy for the great number of disagreeable people with whom he was compelled to come in contact below . . .
Isaac Jughead was as often on a spree as he was on the bench.

As he looked at me as though I had been stubbornly arguing the cause of the children, I replied that the pigs had the best of it, so far, decidedly.

... she was always neatly and becomingly attired, being able to work over an old garment on Saturday, and appear on Sunday the best-dressed woman in the country.

... I think both of us had a good deal to say about an "Old Boy", and the "Best friend in the world," for we lost all of the restraint which made us so uncomfortable in the morning, and fully renewed our old friendship.

When we returned to the house, the three were sitting alone in the best room.

Yes, she owns the place, and you bet she looks after it.

Big Adam
... when there were bills to collect, I was put about it ...

I imagined as my father looked at them that he thought they were birds of too fine plumage for that clime...

... she went in to keep him company, and give him to understand that she was too old a bird to be frightened by such a scarecrow.

... he is a black-whiskered, fierce-looking man...

Agnes

It was a relief to me to hear him ask blessings at the table and pray morning and evening...

Bless you, she owns the farm.

Big Adam

There were thick wooden blinds at all the windows...
I imagined her father to have been a bluff and manly fellow...

The ford was a short distance below... I saw him climbing the abrupt bluff on the other side, helping himself by grasping the underbrush...

... both of them seemed to be on very confidential terms with the boarders...

Although she was... to divide her time... with every family sending children to the school, or to "board round"...

He had something to say, too, about shoveling in his food with a knife, and bolting it...

... he said to me afterwards that he was just getting ready to bolt out of the room...

... as if anything would look well on her old bones except a shroud.

Big Adam
The grease on my rough boots contrasted sharply with the polish of Mr. Shepherd's patent leathers.

he moped about... doing nothing but mischief, and... becoming maudlin from drinking out of his bottle.

Mr. Shepherd had said he would go with us some night to the turkey roost in Bill's Creek bottom.

A habit of theirs was to throw stones... a collection of which they carried... making long journeys to the creek bottoms to select them.

A bound boy on the farm has very little opportunity to learn anything...

they studied around a big box stove.
You have not said a word all evening, though you usually cry, "Brave Jo!" when I have accomplished a purpose, but you seem ashamed of me now.

Jo Erring

... he made up with every old wreck ... and induced him by treats to listen to his brags about himself.

brass button, n.

... he came ... dressed in an old-fashioned cut-away coat with brass buttons ... 

break, v., to reduce to subjection, to tame p. 25.

... he came by the school on a winter evening with a rude sled, to which he had young horses attached to break them ... 

break, v.

to break the news

While I was wondering how to break the news to him, he turned toward me ... 

break down, v.

When Jo did not reply, Mateel broke down ... and sobbed ...
It is fair to suppose ... that the insolent dog who sent this, tired of the contract, and broke it off.

Jo Erring

I only regret that Mateel is not as much concerned as I am, for then there would be a possibility of bridging the difficulty.

Jo Erring

... he would of course know how to manage a boy, so my bringing up was left entirely to him.

John Westlock

When this falls into your hands I shall be traveling the broad road I have so often warned others against ...

John Westlock

"If you were a young man," he continued, coming out of a brown study ...

Mr. Biggs

... not far away ran a stream fringed with thickets of brush, where I found the panting cattle and sheep on hot days ...
brush heap, n. p. 70.

It reminded me of the brush heaps in which we found rabbits at home . . .

buckwheat, n. p. 18.

. . . he had a collection of religious songs . . . the notes being written in buckwheat characters on blue paper . . .

buggy, n. p. 35.

Mr. Winter, the lame shoemaker, who wheeled himself around in a low buggy.


to build the fires

Other boys in the neighborhood built the early fires, and did the early feeding . . .

burst, n. p. 8.

. . . and when I heard my mother tell a few weeks afterwards, in a burst of confidence . . . that my father stormed . . . I concluded that I had never been very welcome . . .

burst, n., outburst p. 306.

I cannot remember now whether I thought a sight of them would cause him a burst of grief or anger . . .
business, n., concern p. 152.

I had it in my mind to say it was none of his business.

butcher-knife, n. p. 79.

... a habit of walking through the house at night, accompanied by the kitchen butcher-knife freshly sharpened ...
Campbellite, a. p. 154.

These two men . . . were members of a church known then as the Campbellite . . .

camp-meeting, a. p. 13.

His was a camp-meeting voice . . .

camp-meeting, n. p. 1.

. . . and as he preached . . . and held camp-meetings on Sundays, he attracted a following of men . . .

can, n. p. 50.

Sometimes he gave us suppers, prepared by his own hands from cans and bottles stored away . . .

cap, n. p. 94.

I wore a little cap.

Jo Erring

cord, y. p. 22.

. . . where my father went to chop wood while Jo and I corded it.

carouse, y. p. 151.

to carouse around

Martin does nothing that is not sensible . . . while I carouse around half the night.

Clinton Bragg
carry on, v.

I should be delighted to show you how we carry on a four hundred acre farm.

Mr. Biggs

castle-building, n.

... she ... gave up castle-building.

cast-off, a.

I remember him at this period as an overgrown boy always wearing cast-off clothing ...

chalk, n.

I looked through my pockets, but could find nothing save a piece of natural chalk I had picked up along the creek riffles. We called it keel; but he did not seem to be familiar with it, nor care much about it. Finding he could make a red mark with it, we finally came to terms.

chamber, n.

... as it was a clear case the application was quietly granted by the judge in chambers, who happened to be familiar with all the circumstances.

charity, n.

There were cheap lands farther on, where the people raised a crop one year, and were supported by charity the next ...
cinnamon bark, n.  p. 40.

... he returned with ... cloves and cinna-
mon bark ... 

circuit, n.  p. 5.

... the circuit he rode in the country . . .
was poor, and paid him but rarely for his
services . . . 

clearing, n.  p. 115.

... passed rapidly along the deep shadow
skirting the other side of the clearing.

clove, n.  p. 40.

... he returned with ... cloves and cinna-
mom bark ... 

collection, n., offering  p. 33

He sat nearest the pulpit ... and always
took up the collection.

come on, v., to be born  p. 177.

Two or three of The Meek's family, who had
come on since I left Fairview, were there . . . 

comforter, n.  p. 292.

He . . . began slowly to wrap the comforter
about his neck . . .
I remember a commercial traveler who sold the merchants nearly all their goods...

...we thought of the community of Smoky Hill as a very superior one.

The one which I occupied was also the company bed...

...he... returned... with packages of cloves, confectionery, crackers...

...with whom he was compelled to come in contact below...

When Martin grew tired... he coolly said he was worn out; but I had no one to whom I could make that excuse, and was compelled to get along the best I could.

I wore a very flashy necktie, and he made one out of the back of a blue copy-book...
corkscrew, n. p. 205.

... he got up from his chair, and began preparations for the punch by taking from the pockets of the coat ... a bag of lemons and a corkscrew.

corn, n. p. 25.

When there was corn to gather, he took the slowest team ...

cornfield, n. p. 3.

There was a graveyard around it, and cornfields next to that ...

countenance, n. p. 247.

to look out of countenance

I have occasionally courageously unlocked my skeleton, and tried to look him out of countenance.

country, n., district, section p. 9.

This occupation gave me my first impression of the country where the people had lived before they came to Fairview, and as there was much in the letters of hard work and pinching poverty, I believed that the writers lived in a heavily timbered country ...

court-house, n. p. 142.

... it had a brick court-house ...

courtly, a. p. 47.

... he was courteous ... bowing in the most courtly manner ...
I thought that the covered wagons travelling it carried people moving from the country from which those in our neighborhood came.

I often sat to look curiously at those stowed away under the cover bows, tumbled together with luggage and effects of every kind.

... he occasionally sang songs of little children, as the cradle song commencing.

There were cheap lands farther on where towns sprang up on credit.

The house of hewn logs was built on the crest of the hill above the creek.

There were cheap lands farther on, where the people raised a crop one year, and were supported by charity the next.
cross, n., burden

The pale . . . women . . . talked in the church of their heavy crosses to bear . . .

cross-road, n.  

By this time we had reached the cross-road . . .

cultivator, n.  

. . . there are dealers in town who would readily take his note for a cultivator with four shovels and a riding seat.

Mr. Biggs

cup, n.  

to shun the cup

. . . once a week they met to call upon the fallen brother to shun the cup and to redeem the country from debauchery and vice.

cut-away coat, n.  

. . . he came . . . dressed in an old-fashioned cut-away coat . . .
damp, n.  p. 329.

Must I watch you traveling a road which grows more suggestive of the damp of graves with every day's journey without putting out a hand to help you?


I can only remember now that it was a very good one for that day . . .

death, n.  p. 125.

to be the death of one

. . . looked at the sores, as though they would finally be the death of him.

direction, n.  p. 8.

If I carried letters, I was requested to read them, and the surprise which I created in this direction was so pronounced that it was generally said that I should certainly become a great man . . .

direction, n.  p. 61.

I soon saw that he was a poor driver, and asked him to give me the reins, which he willingly did, with a good-natured apology for his incapacity, pleading lack of experience in that direction.


. . . and had lived there until other disposition could be made of him.
I remember how generally it was said on her arrival that she would not do, as she was very young, but before the summer was over she somehow convinced her patrons that she would do very well, as she was thoughtful and intelligent, and competent in every way.

Martin don't drink.

Clinton Bragg

door-plate, p.

I noticed a door-plate hanging on one screw...

do the early feeding

Other boys in the neighborhood built the early fires, and did the early feeding...

down, adv., from up-stairs

Agnes came running down to meet me...

doze off, v.

... if I dozed off, and wakened again, I found him pacing up and down the floor...
dram, n., a drink of spirits

... he ... poured out a very large dram.

draw, v.

... an agency, where the Indians came to draw their supplies ...

drawer, n.

Whenever she opened a door, or looked into a box or drawer, she seemed to find something to remind her of her husband ...

dried-up, a.

I saw ... that her features were small and sharp, and dried-up like a mummy's ...

drink, n.

It was also understood that he died in drink ...

drive up, v.

My uncle has just driven up. He is coming in.

Agnes

druggist, n.

There was always a number of famous discussions going on as between ... the blacksmith and the druggist ...
There was a certain man who kept a drug store.

drug-store keeper

The drug-store keeper had to be forcibly prevented from jumping at his burly opponent.

dumb, mute

Believing it to be hopeless, she would be dumb in contemplating the life they would lead in future.

duster

Instead of a shirt he had on a brown duster, tucked into a pair of pants as much too small as the coat was too large.

duty

We found one doing duty on a pantry shelf.
eagerly, adv.; anxiously

I scanned the upturned faces eagerly for looks of sympathy for Jo ... but I could only make out that the people were no more than curious.

earnest, n.; seriousness

in earnest, to a great degree

I found that the snow was falling in earnest ...

(The phrase in this sense is not found in Web. New Int'l.)

earn salvation

I believe that he would rather have gone to heaven without the members of his family than with them, unless they had earned salvation as he had earned it ... 

easy-riding, a.

... you overtake an easy-riding buggy going in the same direction ...

Mr. Biggs

effects, n.; chattel

I became early impressed ... and frequently wondered that they did not load their effects on wagons again ...

evangelize, v.

... which induced him to quit preaching as business, and resolve to evangelize in the West on his own account ...
exursion, n., roaming, wandering  p. 165.

... he ... spent ... his nights in aimless excursions over the country ...


Another one, who carried on a business which one busy day would have exhausted, had heard of a man who achieved commercial greatness ...

exhorter, n.  p. 32.

My father received little aid ... except from a very good farmer, but very bad exhorter ...

experience meeting, n.  p. 36.

... the ... women spoke in low and trembling tones at the experience meetings of heavy crosses to bear ...
faint, n., swoon p. 310.

... he tenderly contemplated the insensible woman before him, for she seemed to be in a faint.

fair, n. p. 53.

... she would have enjoyed making fancy work ... to sell at fairs ...

fair-haired, a. p. 259.

The mate's recollection of my mother was that she was pretty, and fair-haired ...

fall, v. p. 75.

... made me very uncomfortable at my bad manners, for up to that time I had not been backward in falling to.

famous, a. p. 64.

I have no doubt we shall become famous friends.

Mr. Shepherd

fancy work, n. p. 53.

... she would have enjoyed making fancy work ...
We had been so taken up with our own affairs of late that we had scarcely thought of them, as often we did not hear for a year at a time how they fared.

A wind-mill stood and around it was piled a great collection of farm machinery.

I was thrown into the center of a great feather-bed.

Finally he found a place, but the feed boxes were gone; and then another, but it had no place for the hay.

Other boys in the neighborhood built the early fires, and did the early feeding.

... when we were boys... you were so earnest and feeling that tears came into your eyes.

Ned
fellow, n.

My uncle was a very intelligent fellow, and he soon became quite entertaining . . .

fierce-looking, a.

. . . he was a large, fierce-looking man, whom it would likely be dangerous to trifle with . . .

financial, a.

. . . it was believed by a great many that he received financial help from Clinton Bragg.

find out, v.

to be found out, to be known for what (one) is

I thought once I was rather a remarkable fellow; but like all other fools I am found out.

Jo Erring

fire, n.

Other boys in the neighborhood built the early fires and did the early feeding . . .

fish-worm, n.

This, coupled with an observation from my uncle Jo that when he first saw me an hour or two after birth, I looked like a fish-worm, was all I could find out . . .
Some of the other men were flashily dressed, and some of them plainly.

I wore a very flashy necktie.

When the folks were away... he added my mother's work to his own.

I depend on you to distinguish your family; there is no one else to do it, and we came of a long line of very common folks.

Grandfather Erring

he would like to follow milling for a business.

Had he been... awkward... we should have laughed... and regarded him as a fop...

The ford was a short distance below, but before I reached it, I saw him climbing the abrupt bluff on the other side...
foreman, n. p. 144.

... he explained that he was the foreman, and that ... I was to learn the trade under him ... 

fork, n. p. 66.

fork of a river

Mr. Biggs ... lived in the first white house after crossing the north fork of Bull River ... 

fork-making, a. p. 216.

Bragg considered this fork-making community as the greatest the world had ever produced ... 

form, n. p. 159.

I had learned to ink the forms ... with a hand roller ... 

foul play, n. p. 192.

... my father’s staunch friends ... would not believe the report; that there had been foul play ... 


... the great piles of framed timbers ... were his work ...
frames, n.

but I believe the people turned out to the raising, and helped put up the frames.

framing, a.

I was once a good hand at framing timbers . . .

Grandfather Erring

fresh, a.

This gave me fresh reason for believing that the country . . . was a very unfavored one . . .

fresh-looking, a., active and capable

Their mother, a large, fresh-looking woman . . . was good-natured . . .

frock, n.

I noticed that the boys wore their hair in long curls, and that their frocks were braided.

full hand, n., one who does a man's work

Jo had been a full hand on the farm for several years but he never received anything for it . . .
funny bone, n.  p. 167.

Bragg's sullen looks aroused Big Adam's "funny bone": . . .

future, n.  p. 234.

in future, in the future

. . . she would be dumb in contemplating the life they would lead in future.
G

*Genteelly, adv.*

... : we can live more genteelly in town than we have lived here.

John Westlock

*Get on, v.*

... they were pleased ... and ... seemed to think that matters would get on better now, for they were more cheerful than before ... .

*Get on, v.*

... we walked about, attempting to renew our old confidences ... but we did not get on as we used to do.

*Get out, v.*

... and it occurred to me, with renewed force, that Fairview was getting out of its old ways.

*Give, v.*

... she went in to keep him company, and give him to understand that she was too old a bird to be frightened by such a scarecrow.

*Give, v.*

... I came to believe that but for his religion he would have been a man much given to money getting ... .
give, v.  

*to give (one) credit for*

- ... there is more to me than Fairview has ever given me credit for.

Jo Erring

**go, v.**

*to go on the books*

- ... if they paid a dollar on account they bought three or four times that amount to go on the books.

**go down, v., to sink**

- ... she was ... told ... that her father's ship had gone down at sea ...

**good-natured, a.**

- ... he never quarreled, but was in every dispute a mediator announcing his decision in a voice good-natured and hoarse ...

**Good Templars, n.**

Together they established a lodge of Good Templars at Fairview, although the people were all sober and temperate, and once a week they met to call upon the fallen brother to shun the cup, and to redeem the country from debauchery and vice.

**go on, v., to be put on**

His clothes were piled up in a heap by the side of it, with the V-shaped hat on top, ready to go on the first thing in the morning.
There was always a suspicion in my mind that they shouted and went on in response to his preaching because he was their friend, and wanted them to do so.

She gave up one hot afternoon, and came down the path shouting and going on like mad.

Gran, n., grandmother

Divining that we wondered where Gran was.

Grass, n.

The men loudly threatened to go to the rival towns, and permit the grass to grow in our streets.

Grate, n.

A light burned in the front room, and a fire in the grate. Even the fire dashed at me with puffs of smoke.

Grated window, n.

The news seemed to spread rapidly, for by climbing up at the grated window I saw lights in several directions where there were none before.
grave lot, n., cemetery

... those who had lounged outside to read the inscriptions on the head-boards in the grave lot came back again to see what it was all about.

gravel walk, n.

--with a gravel walk leading down to the gate.

graveyard, n.

There was a graveyard around it.

Great Book of Men's Actions, n.

Whether the figures were beckoning will never be known until the Great Book of Men's Actions is opened.

great coat, n., over coat

... he wrapped his great coat about him, as though he was chilled to the heart.

grindstone

... the kitchen butcher-knife freshly sharpened at the grindstone.

grist, n.

Jo was often sent to a water-mill with a grist, and while waiting for his wheat or corn to be ground.
ground, n.  p. 205.

Ground of desertion

I found that the divorce had been granted a few months before, on the ground of desertion . . .


Ours was the prairie district out West, where we had gone to grow up with the country.

grow up with the country  p. 1.

Ours was the prairie district out West, where we had gone to grow up with the country.

Guinea-hen, n.  p. 41.

They always went home with Guinea-hens or geese in their possession . . .
hail, v. p. 53.
... she at once hailed him as a man raised up to do a great work ... 

hailing distance, n. p. 66.
I knew it as well as if I had lived within hailing distance all my life.

half-boisterous, a. p. 315.
On the way he kept talking in a half-boisterous manner ... 

hammock, n. p. 144.
... to the branches of this was suspended a hammock ... 

hand, n. p. 118.
Jo had been a full hand on the farm for several years ... 

hand, n., hand writing p. 201.
I found a letter lying on the table addressed in a neat hand to Mr. and Mrs. Goode Shepherd ... 

Taking from his pocket a roll of hand-bills, apparently from the press ...
hand roller, n.  
I had learned to ink the forms . . . with a hand roller . . .

handy, a.  
I sat down . . . with a view of being handy in case I was wanted . . .

hard, a.  
It was the understanding in the country that all town boys were hard characters, and that every country boy who went there to live must fight his way to respectability.

hard, adv.  
I hope you will not think hard of me if I say that she had the experience which I should have had . . .

Jo Erring

hard-trotting, a.  
His good spirits were rapidly returning by reason of release from the hard-trotting horse's back . . .

hard wood, n.  
The house was very large and strong, with doors of heavy hard wood . . .

hardwood tree, n.  
The house was built of stone . . . surrounded by heavy hardwood trees . . .
haul, v.  p. 156.

Some . . . owned teams, and farmed . . . others "hauled", . . .

have to say  p. 334.

. . . you can have it to say that you had all the love there was in one man's life.

hay-loft, n.  p. 327.

. . . we went out to the hay-loft . . .

head-board, n.  p. 56.

. . . those who had lounged outside to read the inscriptions on the head-boards in the grave lot . . .

heap, n.  p. 343.

Jo fell in a heap on the floor . . .

hearer, n.  p. 16.

I think he described the pleasures of the world so vividly that his hearers were taken with a wish to enjoy them . . .

heart, n.  p. 188.

Before night I came to the conclusion, though it gave me a sad heart, that the sooner the community was made aware of the matter, the sooner would its gossiping and conjecturing cease . . .
hearth, n.  p. 29.  
... we resumed our places at the hearth.

heaven help you  p. 92.  
Heaven help you, Jo, in that. There never was a happy man in Fairview, and I hoped with all my heart that Jo might become one, as he deserved.

heft, v.; to try the weight of by raising  p. 322.  
... he kept critically examining the club, squinting along it to see if it were properly proportioned, or hefting it from the little end.

... two of them who engaged a hell-redemptionist one night would ... fail to agree themselves the next ... 

hewn, a.  p. 27.  
... in a house of hewn logs, the inside of which was a marvel for neatness.

high water, n.  p. 123.  
... there would occasionally be dull days at Barker's--as in times of high water or ice ...
hired man, n.

... he took the slowest team and the lazy hired man and brought in more loads than my father and I ...

hit, v.

to hit upon (something)

I have hit upon a plan to relieve us of it ... it is the only thing that can be done ... for it is sometimes hard to hit upon the right plan ... I ... hoped that he had hit upon something ... 

hitch, v., to attach horses

... we would hitch to the wagon and go after it.

Ned

hold, v.

to hold a plow

... but he never held a plow or pitched hay ... 

Big Adam

hunt, v.

to hunt a stall

... taking up the fork he had laid down to hunt a stall for my horses ...
hurry on, y., to put on hastily  p. 21.
   ... he never caught us, for we knew that was final and hurried on our clothes.

hymn-writer, n.  p. 18.
   ... there were thirty-eight verses ... written by a noted hymn-writer ... 

hold up, v., to hold (oneself) back by force, restrain (oneself)  p. 253.
   Barker ... sobbed again like a man who had been holding up for a long time.

honor, n.  p. 310.
   She belongs to me, and I have protected her honor! The dog whose ambition it was to disgrace me through her weakness is dead.
   Jo Erring

hornpipe, n.  p. 132.
   "I shouldn't have begun," he said, walking over to the music rack (to look for a hornpipe, I thought). ... Jo Erring

horror, n.  p. 132.
   ... if you continue in this humor we shall all have the horrors presently.
   Ned

   to hold (one's) peace, to keep calm
   ... though I longed to retaliate by pointing out the offenses of some of them, I found it best to hold my peace.
It was also understood that he died in drink.

It is very polite in you to say so.

Barker

I wondered if only the unfortunate traveled our way... and I had never seen any other kind in the road.

When we were first married... I was greatly in debt, and very uncomfortable in consequence.

Jo Erring

... it had been occupied... by an Indian agent...

... Big Adam... heard of the wedding, and determined to at least attend what he called the "infair".
I had learned to ink the forms . . . with a hand roller . . .

It had always been a part of his work, I believe, to write the few local items of the town . . .

You seem to be able to do everything, Jo, but I hope you will get out of the way, for these Jacks are said to be able to make everything except money.

Grandfather Erring


to be jaded

The horses were jaded from the long day's work, but I urged them along the rough roads at a rapid pace.

jail, n.  p. 142.

... it had a brick-court house, a stone jail ...

jaw at, v.  p. 76.

Big Adam protesting ... that it was not pleasant to be always "jawed at" ...
I looked through my pockets, but could
find nothing save a piece of natural chalk
I had picked up along the creek riffles.
We called it keel; but he did not seem to
be familiar with it, nor care much about it.
Finding he could make a red mark with it,
we finally came to terms.

He was walking about ... looking curiously...
... at the knots of people collected
in the yard ...
lamp, n.  
He had but little to say ... and, a short time after the lamps were brought in for the night ... 

latch, n.  
He stood by this time near the door, with his hand on the latch, and, simply saying good-by, he opened it ... 

laugh, v.  
to laugh (one's) religion  
This remarkable man laughed his religion rather than preached ... 

laughing song, n.  
His singing would be regarded at this day as a very expert rendering of a laughing song, but to us it was an impressive performance, as were his praying and ... preaching ... 

laughter, n.  
His family ... were laughers like him ... 

lay off, v., to take off  
After laying off her wraps Mateel looked around the pleasant room ...
lead, v., to respond to the driver p. 170.

... seeing that the horse led well.

leading citizen, n. p. 2.

There were cheap lands farther on ... where he who was deepest in debt was the leading citizen ... .

leather dealer, n. p. 166.

The only man I ever knew who visited his rooms was the leather dealer ... .


In order to avoid the leave-taking ... I drove over ... in the middle of the afternoon ... .

leather store, n. p. 166.

He had an office and apartments over a leather store ... .

libertine, n. p. 213.

... the men pretended ... that their associates were great libertines, and many of the women were scandalized in an unjust and cruel manner.

light, v. p. 52.

This kind of amusement he kept up at night until we became sleepy, and, lighting us to the room in which we were to sleep, he ... continued the story ... .
like, conj.  

... he accepted the trust to return them to their Maker as nearly like they came as possible ... 

limp, a.  

limp as a rag

He fell out of my grasp as limp as a rag.

Jo Erring

line, n.  

Occasionally people who had lines to run knocked at his door in response to the sign, "C. Bragg, C. Engineer". ...

loafer, n.  

... they became town loafers ...

lodge, n.  

Together they established a lodge of Good Templars at Fairview ... 

log, n.  

... in a house of hewn logs, the inside of which was a marvel for neatness.

long, a., tall  

... he was really a very long boy of his age ...
I thought of him as a man taking a long-contemplated rest from weary work.

I joined Jo who took no other interest in the novel performance than that of looker-on.

They seemed a queer lot to me, their clothing being of a pattern I had never seen before.

Dr. Medicine told me what an unpromising lout the present magnificent Honorable Legal was when he first arrived.

The messenger who had been sent into the lower country to inform Gran Erring of her daughter's death returned a few days later with the information that my grandmother and grandfather were both dead.
mad, a.  like mad

... she gave up ... shouting and going on like mad ... 

madly, adv.  p. 119.

There seems to be no doubt that I am madly in love.

Jo Erring

make oath  p. 173.

I would have made oath ... that I had heard ... 

make up, v., to become friendly  p. 216.

... there was no change in his manner except that he made up with every old wreck who came to town ... 

make up, v., to prepare for occupancy  p. 30.

... my mother ... could not hope to learn perfectly the art of making up a feather-bed ... 

Maker, n.  p. 15.

Once they had arrived, however, he accepted the trust to return them to their Maker as nearly like they came as possible ...
There was a very general impression that manufactories were needed.

The enthusiasm reminded me of that in a mass-meeting when a popular speaker gets up.

... his match-safe was a human skull.

She went in to give him to understand that she was too old a bird to be frightened by such a scarecrow. First wiping the glasses as though that would help her in taking his measure, she called me in.

Usually, too, in such cases the medical man lives a great many miles away.

On the highest and bleakest point in the county, the meeting-house was built.

... so I stumbled over to the melodeon, and sang nine verses.

Jo Erring
I remember she was particularly gay, and had I not known differently, I might of thought of her as some favorite child of good fortune.

... I found the panting cattle and sheep ... and I hoped it was rather a relief to them to look at me in mild-eyed wonder.

... he should like to be a miller ...

... he would like to follow milling for a business.

High up in a steeple ... was a great bell, the gift of a missionary society ...

I didn't suspect my good luck until Agnes woke me up this morning, and said the old missus was dead ...

Big Adam
mistress, n., teacher

... she was simply mistress of the Fairview school ...

mitten, n.

I should have cultivated his affection for me after he put on boots and mittens, and went out with his father to work ...

Mrs. Westlock

money, n.

ready money

You are poor and old; I am young, and have ready money ... take it with you ...

Ned

money getting, n.

I came to believe that but for his religion he would have been a man much given to money getting and ambitious for distinction ...

mope about, v., to "loaf", to idle

... he moped about ... doing nothing but mischief, and ... becoming maudlin from drinking out of his bottle.
move, n. p. 57.

he probably consented ... not because he was exactly clear himself how the move was to be of benefit.


I will ask it on my knees if it will move you.

Ned

mover, n. p. 11.

I often sat on the high fence beside it to watch for the coming of the movers' wagons . . .
new-comer, n.  p. 73.
While she was collecting them I saw that the new-comer's hair was twisted behind her head in a tight little knot.

new-found, a.  p. 268.
During the fall following the summer . . . Agnes went to live with her new-found father at the mill.

night-robe, n.  p. 352.
I saw it was Mateel, dressed in a long white night-robe . . . From the half-open door came the odor of a sick room, and in that one glance I saw that she was very pale, very weak, and very ill.

nonsense, n.  p. 4.
It did not seem to occur to him that men and women who had grown up in a certain faith renounced it with difficulty . . . If they were humiliated, he was glad of it . . . and people who worshipped there would be expected to throw aside all doctrinal nonsense.
of, prep., for

They say you are old of your age. I am not old of my age.

Jo Erring

of, prep., for

... he was really a very long boy of his age ...

of, prep., from

... a man ... had collected his money of a railroad company in the country he had moved from ...

offering, a.

It was the best thing offering under the circumstances and should therefore be accepted without hesitation.

old, a.

... she was again occupying her old room in our house.

old-fashioned, a.

Occasionally he came to our neighborhood dressed in an old-fashioned cut-away coat ...
She talks a great deal about having nothing decent to wear, as if anything would look well on her old bones except a shroud.

Big Adam

I think both of us had a good deal to say about an "Old Boy", and the "Best friend in the world", for we lost all of the restraint which made us so uncomfortable in the morning, and fully renewed our old friendship.

I have heard that in some places measures are found necessary to compel attendance on the schools.

As the attendance on the summer school was small, Agnes managed to come home very early.

I found that the divorce had been granted on the ground of desertion.

There seemed to be a spring somewhere near, for the stalls were oozy and wet.
to be out of (one's) time, to have finished an apprenticeship

Jo was out of his time at the mill, and . . . had been receiving wages . . .

. . . he was surprised to get it in such an out-of-the-way place.

I came to believe that Damon Barker had been an outlaw in his time . . .

Ours was the prairie district out West, where we had gone to grow up with the country.

I remember him at this period as an overgrown boy always wearing cast-off clothing . . .

I wonder that I am so cool over it.

Jo Erring
It was a popular expression that every one favorably mentioned was the "worst overrated man in America".

I was brought up in a community where the women were over-worked, imposed upon, and unhappy.
packhorse, n.

I see now that they all regarded me as a convenience; a trusty packhorse of great endurance. ..

Jo Erring

packing-box, n.

... as the big house, built after the architecture of a packing-box, in which they lived.

pallet, n.

I found her sleeping on a pallet by the side of my bed...

pantaloons, n.

... he came ... dressed in ... vest and pantaloons of an ... aristocratic pattern ...

pants, n.

... he had on a brown duster, tucked into a pair of pants ...

paper, n., newspaper

... they were pointing out the defects of the paper...
6fh.

I never heard that (corn) was good for anything except to parch.

pare, v.

to pare (one’s) finger nails

... he took a delicate knife from his pocket, and ... proceeded to pare his finger nails.

parlor, n.

... she ushered us into the neat parlor.

pass, v.

to pass into (one’s) possession

I hope the Devil is satisfied. He has been after me a long while, and I have passed into his possession of body and soul.

Jo Erring

pasture, n.

Beyond the little stream and the pasture was the great dusty road.

patent leathers, n., shoes made of patent leather

The grease on my rough boots contrasted sharply with the polish of Mr. Shepherd’s patent leathers.
When she was fourteen . . . her uncle found her a place to teach a summer school . . . she somehow convinced her patrons that she would do . . .

.. he occasionally sang songs of little children . . . and the cradle song . . . written by a noted hymn-writer, otherwise my father would not have patronized him.

They seemed a queer lot to me, their clothing being of a pattern I had never seen before . . .

. . . if they paid a dollar on account they bought three . . . times that amount to go on the books.

I had regarded this pay-as-you go principle as a very good one . . .

I confess that my sympathies were always with Jo, for the grown people picked at him because of his ambition to become a man . . .
pin, v.

p. 174.

Jo gaily waved his hand to me from the high place to which he had climbed to pin a timber...

pinching, a.

p. 9.

... and as there was much in the letters of hard work and pinching poverty, I believed that the writers lived in a heavily timbered country...

pious, n.

p. 3.

... there were a great number of strokes on the bell... which the pious said was an alarm to the wicked...

pitch, v.

to pitch hay

p. 67.

I saw... a... young man was pitching hay...

pitching, n.

p. 67.

He... picking up his fork... went on with his pitching.

pitying, a.

p. 232.

I saw that my mother's room was full of pitying faces, and that the people made way for me as I approached the pale form on the bed.

place, n., position

p. 42.

... her uncle found her a place to teach a summer school...
place of business

... whenever I went into the place of business of either one of them...

plate, n.

I remember a commercial traveler who sold the merchants nearly all their goods because he once threw a plate of soup in Bragg's face at the hotel table...

plate, n.

I have thought... she was familiar with all the fashions in woman's dress... for she was always in advance of the plates...

platform, n.

Then came a long platform of dull, political principles, and a declaration that it was the duty of every good citizen to take it...

playground, n.

... the children... played... in the grave lot, there being no playground...

plough-field, n.

... he always made a round in the plough-field after my father had turned out...

plunder, n.

In a place for plunder which adjoined his room were kept half a dozen large chests...
There is a cot in the plunder room.

They seemed surprised that they were not in the poor-house.

It was just such a place as I expected to find; an aristocratic porch on two sides of a house.

His establishment was astir, and in half an hour we heard a posse start off in a wagon.

The one child he had written he was possessed of turned out to be a pretty girl of nineteen.

It was the custom when my father went to the nearest post-office to bring back with him the mail.

Ours was the prairie district out West, where we had gone to grow up with the country.
prayer-meeting, n. p. 32.

... they immediately began a prayer-meeting to give the new convert opportunity to face a frowning world ... 

The press was in a little room by itself ... 

press day, n., printing day p. 238.
I remember that I would look over it carefully on press days ... 

presswork, n., printing p. 159.
... there was always more presswork to do every week ... 

Princess pattern, n. p. 177.
... she wore a dress cut in what was then known as the "Princess" pattern. 

printer, n. p. 159.
... I am sure it was due to the kindly encouragement and help of Martin, who was not only a very clever printer, but an intelligent man besides. 

pull, v., to row p. 203.
... changing places with him, I pulled the boat back to the mill in silence.
to pull into (one's) clothes

After a while my grandmother came to the bed, pulled me out and into my clothes . . .

pulpit, n., reading desk used by the preacher when giving his sermon

His first preaching impressed everyone favorably, though his side whiskers were against him, as was also the tall hat standing on the pulpit beside him.

(Not in Web. New Int'l., 1926, in this particular sense.)

I have thought of this so much that my health has become impaired, and I have lost the power to act. I was a weak and puny girl; I fear I am a weaker woman . . .

Mateel

One of my pupils from Fairview, Ned Westlock.

Agnes

I also said I knew Mr. Erring very well, and that although at present a little pushed, he was an honest man . . .

Jo Erring
put, v.  

p. 162.

to be put about (something),
to be given (a task)

. . . when there were bills to collect, I
was put about it . . .

put, v.  

p. 60.

to put (one's self) in (one's) way

I was so certain that I was wanted to drive
them home that I put myself in his way . . .
quail, n.  p. 41.

They could kill more squirrels and quails by throwing than others of a similar age could by shooting.

quarter-horse, n.  p. 156.

... it was one of their greatest accomplishments to drive a quarter-horse to a wood wagon and match it against a farmer's horse threatened with speed.
rabbit, n. p. 70.
It reminded me of the brush heaps in which we found rabbits at home.

rafter, n. p. 28.
... hung it up to dry on the kitchen rafters ...

rail at, v. p. 83.
to be railed at
... if I wake up in the night she is either being railed at by that she devil or is up with the children ...

Big Adam

railroad, n. p. 63.
I bought mine at the station where we left the railroad.

Mr. Shepherd

rain pitchforks p. 27.
... he said it would probably come about when the sky rained pitchforks on the roof ...

raise, v., to rear p. 120.
... unless it was regret that he had been raised so poorly ...
raise up, v. to be raised up

... she ... hailed him as a man raised up
to do a great work ...

raising, n.

All the carpenter's work, and all the plasterer's
work, he performed. ... but I believe the people
turned out to the raising, and helped put up the
frames.

raw-boned, a.

... for he was very large, very raw-boned,
and clean shaven ...

remains, n., corpse

... I am to drive the remains to the
graveyard.

Big Adam

remark, v., to notice

I remarked it that day ... that he was a
large, fierce-looking man ...

rented house, n.

... we roamed the country with some of the
idle vagabonds who lived in rented houses ...
"Old Lee lives there," I said, as we passed the house of the renter on our farm.

Ned

I often attended the revivals, and sang the songs as loudly as the rest of them...

The lake of fire he thought of as a remedy for the great number of disagreeable people with whom he was compelled to come in contact below, and of whom he would be happily rid above.

a piece of natural chalk I had picked up along the creek riffles.

they were up waiting for daylight, as people were early risers in those days...

I began to watch the roadside for the body of the dead man...

I had been wishing that Agnes would ask me to sing and even debated in my mind whether I would roar the "Hunter's Horn"...
to be a few rods

It is a pretty place here, and it is but a few rods to the best point for a mill.

Grandfather Erring

... he ... went directly home from the church, which was located within a few rods of the place where Biggs had opened the store.

... he ... went directly home from the church, which was located within a few rods of the place where Biggs had opened the store.

to travel the broad road

When this falls into your hands I shall be traveling the broad road I have so often warned others against ...

... if you have a trace of (my evil nature) in your nature, root it out.

John Westlock

... (the) performance was received with rounds of applause.

There were few men more trusty than Jo, and he always made a round in the plough-field after my father had turned out ...
There were boats on the mill pond, and I proposed a row.

. . . she immediately began a war on rum . . .

Jo made a good deal of money every month by running extra time . . .

Pushing this into my wagon . . . after we had first made a run-way of boards, I hauled him to Fairview . . .
saddler, n.  p. 167.

... no one applied there for admission except the saddler for his rent, and a lame negro who ... cleaned his apartments ... 

sainted, a., saintly  p. 32.

... from which grew an impression that she was a very sainted person ... 

salute, v., to greet  p. 203.

... after saluting Jo and his wife with a polite word of congratulation, Barker took the chair Agnes brought up ... 

scarecrow, n.  p. 105.

... she went in ... to ... give him to understand that she was too old a bird to be frightened by such a scarecrow. 

scarf, n.  p. 292.

He got up at this and began ... to wrap his scarf around his neck and head. 

scholar, n.  p. 44.

We were ... the head scholars ... for we had little opposition from the children of Fairview.
school director, n. p. 45.

... and being the most influential of the school directors, he saw that her pay was good ... 


I was but sixteen then; a school-girl without serious thought or purpose ...

Mateel

school-meeting, n. p. 33.

... at the school-meetings he was the second to speak ... 

service, n. p. 104.

When it was announced that the family would spend the time at our house until the evening service, he was ... displeased.

set, n. p. 155.

... a favorite way ... was to elect the county officers from the country, but after their terms expired a new set moved in ... 

settle up, v. p. 89.

Fairview was quietly and rapidly settling up.

settlement, n. p. 3.

The church was built the first year of the settlement ...
shake him by the hand  
... one by one the people went forward to shake him by the hand ...  

she devil, n.  
... she is ... railed at by that she devil ...  

Big Adam  

sheep, n.  
lost sheep, lost soul, sinner  
... if we heard the people coming home in the evening shouting and singing, we knew that the lost sheep had been recovered ...  

sheet, n.  
Once after she had slept there, and I was put into the bed she had occupied a night or two afterwards, I amused my mother by asking her to change the sheets ...  

shingle, n.  
He never went anywhere except to the timber to make shingles ...  

shingle, v.  
He shingled hair in a superb manner for anyone who applied ...  

shingle-maker, n.  
... of her husband the people knew nothing except that he was a shingle-maker ...
shingle-making, n.  

The calling of shingle-making he followed winter and summer ... 

shingle-making, n.  

... he ... spent the money he earned in shingle-making ... 

shoemaker, n.  

pp. 34-35 

One of these unfortunates was Mr. Winter, the lame shoemaker, who wheeled himself around in a low buggy. 

short trousers, n.  

p. 72. 

... and the older boys were dressed in short trousers ... 

shouter, n.  

p. 35. 

He was a very devout man, and a shouter, and during the revivals he wheeled himself up and down the aisles in his buggy ... 

shovel, v.  

p. 75. 

He had something to say, too, about shoveling in his food with a knife and bolting it ... 

show, n.  

p. 127. 

... so pleased my grandafter that he laughed ... and declared that we were equal to a "show". 

sick, a.  

p. 16. 

... he thought of his religion as a vigorous, healthy, successful man thinks in his quiet moments of a wife sick since their marriage ...
side whiskers, n.  p. 59.

His first preaching impressed everyone favorably, though his side whiskers were against him . . .

sight, n.  p. 83.

You would have seen a sight if you had; a woman who hasn't combed her hair for six years . . .

Big Adam

sightly, a.  p. 11.

It was built on lower ground than Fairview church, though the location was sightly, and not far away ran a stream fringed with thickets of brush . . .

signal fire, n.  p. 149.

Directly opposite . . . were the mounds . . . where . . . the Indians built signal fires . . .

single shovel plough, n.  p. 172.

That part over in the field . . . is ploughing his corn with a single shovel plough . . .

Mr. Biggs

sled, n.  p. 25.

Sometimes he came by the school on a winter evening with a rude sled, to which he had young horses attached to break them . . .

smart, a., trim, neatly dressed  p. 145.

The dinner was served in large plates . . . and two smart girls in stiff aprons and dresses were in attendance . . .
smarten (oneself) up, v. p. 60.

I thought he was anxious that the new people should not see him until he had gone home and smartened himself up . . .

smartly, adv. p. 62.

When Jo appeared . . . he was smartly dressed.

speak, v. p. 47.

My father often threatened to "speak" to him about it . . .

specimen for a museum p. 105.

I was certain he was frowning all the way, and thinking of me as a fine specimen for a museum . . .


Bragg will finally become a beggar, for he is a spendthrift and loafer . . .

spree, n. p. 217.

Isaac Jughead was as often on a spree as he was on the bench . . .

spring up, v. p. 2.

There were cheap lands farther on . . . where towns sprang up on credit . . .

sprinkling, n. p. 155.

. . . my father remarked . . . that sprinkling answered every purpose of baptism.
... she said in a voice which has since remained a sob in my memory ...

soften, v., to be enfeebled, to become impaired (with ref. to brain disease)

He talked ... of how the people ... would say his brain was softening, or that he ought to be sent to an asylum ...

square, n.

He ... stopped ... as if to wonder if something ... were not going on at some of the places lit up around the square.

stable, n.

He laid down his fork at this, and went to look through the stables.

stair rail, n.

Just then they all came tearing out into the hall above to the stair rail ...

stall, n.

There seemed to be a spring somewhere near, for the stalls were oozy and wet.

stand, n., a table

a printing table on which the trays of type are set

... we found three men ... who were throwing their arms violently around over a high stand ...
If you'll show me where to stand the horses
I'll put them away.

Ned

station, n. p. 44.
I should have been content to see her go away
to enjoy proud station and rich friends . . .

steeple, n. p. 3.
High up in a steeple . . . was a great bell,
the gift of a missionary society . . .

stint, n. p. 22.
I think he was kinder with us when at work . . .
we admired him in spite of the hard and exacting
tasks he gave us to do—he called them stints . . .

stock, n. p. 22.
I do not remember that we were ever idle in the
middle of the week, unless we were sent on
errands, as buying young stock . . .

store, n., a building used for trade p. 142.
. . . it had . . . several wooden stores . . .

storekeeper, n. p. 146.
. . . most of them chewed tobacco, which was
passed around by a boy I judged belonged to a
storekeeper.
... when I heard ... that my father stormed for an hour because I was born at all, I concluded that I had never been very welcome ...

... a square house of two stories, pointed so white that after night it looked like a ghost.

I stoutly decided to go with him, and even planned how to get ready money for the purpose.

I often sat ... to watch for the coming of the movers' wagons, and to look curiously at those stowed away under the cover bows, tumbled together with luggage and effects of every kind.

The main road ... ran past the outer wall of the jail, a part of it being built on the street line ...

She talks about poisoning and strangling for hours at a stretch ...

Big Adam

She complains ... that the poor girl is at home because Agnes is not away earning money for her strong-box ...

Big Adam
he was about the only one among the people who read books and subscribed for newspapers.

... we spent the time visiting the sugar-camps in early spring...

It having been decided to begin the summer school a few weeks earlier, it became necessary for me to go after the teacher...

he regretted he could not set them on fire by holding his eyes on them, like a sun-glass.

Sometimes he gave us suppers, prepared by his own hands.

There was no one in the supper room.

A pig may be raised to maturity and usefulness with a few hundred buckets of swill, a few bushels of corn.
Then came a long platform of dull political principles, and a declaration that it was the duty of every good citizen to take it . . .

If they had arguments to excuse it, he did not care to hear them, as he had taken God into partnership, and built Fairview, and people who worshipped there world he expected to throw aside all doctrinal nonsense.

wiping the glasses, as though that would help her in taking his measure, she called me in . . .

That party . . . is ploughing his corn with a single shovel plough, whereas there are dealers in town who would readily take his note for a cultivator . . .

I can never explain to you fully why I take it so much to heart . . .

Jo Erring

. . . we stopped at the house, where my father came out and took them in.
take up, v.  

to be taken up, to become occupied with

We had been so taken up with our own affairs of late that we scarcely thought of them . . .

talk big, v.  

He talks big but he's called Little Biggs . . .

tall hat, n.  

His first preaching impressed everyone . . . though his side whiskers were against him, as was also the tall hat standing on the pulpit . . .

tattoo, n.  

. . . he . . . beat a merry tattoo with the fingers of his hand which rested on the table.

(Web. New Int'l., 1926, has corresponding verb but not the noun.)

teach, v.  

. . . her uncle found her a place to teach a summer school . . .

team, n.  

My father and Jo went to the fields, or away with the teams . . .

tear out, v., to run excitedly  

Just then they all came tearing out into the hall above to the stair rail, as if they knew of the arrival of a visitor, and were anxious to see him . . .
tell on, v., to leave marks on

I could not help remarking of Barker that time had suddenly ceased to tell on him.

than, prep., except

I could do nothing else than murder him.

Jo Erring

than since

Jo seemed to be more contented than since the night he came to me with the fatal letter.

than since

Although there was always something of sadness in his manner, he was more like himself than since we were boys.

thicket, n.

... not far away ran a stream fringed with thickets of brush.

threaten, v.

... it was one of their greatest accomplishments to drive a quarter-horse... match it against a farmer's horse threatened with speed.

threatened with speed, known for speed

... it was one of their greatest accomplishments to drive a quarter-horse... match it against a farmer's horse threatened with speed.
throw, v.  

to throw (one's) money away, to waste one's money

I wonder that anyone took the "Union of States", and as for its advertising I was certain the people were throwing their money away.

timber, n.  

I found him leaning against a heavy timber, looking at the flame in his lantern again.

timber, n.  

He never went anywhere except to the timber to make shingles.

timber, v.  

... the site of Twin Mounds had evidently been timbered originally.

timbered, a.  

I believed that the writers lived in a heavily timbered country.

time, n.  

be out of (one's) time, to have served apprenticeship

Jo was out of his time at the mill, and had been receiving wages.

touching, a.  

Their devotion to her memory is very touching.
town fashion, n. p. 71.

... my uncle Lytle is trying to bring them up in town fashion ...

Agnes


... it was a town joke on Bragg he did not enjoy ...

town marshal, n. p. 240.

Then the town marshal arrested Bragg for attempting to create a disturbance of the peace ...

tract, n. p. 9.

I though that ... the writers ... would settle on some of the tracts of prairie which could be seen in every direction ...

trade, n., profession p. 130.

It is one of the disadvantages of the trade I am learning that I shall be expected to be sociable with every kind of men.

Jo Erring

trading-place, n. p. 141.

... there was ... a small trading-place several miles nearer ...

treat, n. p. 216.

... he made up with every old wreck who came to town, and induced him by treats to listen to his brags about himself.
trifling, a., not important, of little consequence

Mr. Shepherd... said that... Clinton Bragg... had stopped on a trifling errand... 

trusty, a., trustworthy

There were few men more trusty than Jo, and he always made a round in the plough-field after my father had turned out... 

turn, n.

... when I thought that I was one of those whose terrible condition the hymns described, it gave me such a turn that I left that part of the house... 

turkey roost, n.

... we roamed the country... visiting turkey roosts a great distance in the woods... 

turn out, v., to leave (a field)

There were few men more trusty than Jo, and he always made a round in the plough-field after my father had turned out, as if to convince him that he was mistaken in the opinion that boys were good for nothing.

turn out, v.

All the carpenter's work, and all the plasterer's work, he performed without assistance... but I believe the people turned out to the raising, and helped put up the frames.
turn up, v., to turn up (one's) nose

... he remained there undisturbed, except occasionally by my grandmother, who dashed in at intervals to turn up her nose.
unhitch, v. p. 68.

He helped me to unhitch the horses.

upstart, n. p. 106.

... she kept up an incessant rattle of compliments ... frequently denouncing the ignorant upstarts who did not like them.
vagabond, n.  
*Usually Jo and I were given the Saturday afternoons to ourselves, when we roamed the country with some of the idle vagabonds who lived in rented houses.*

verse, n., stanza  
*... he ... sang songs of little children, as "Moses in the Bulrushes", of which there were thirty-eight verses.*

vest, n.  
*... dressed in an old-fashioned cut-away coat with brass buttons, and vest and pantaloons of an equally aristocratic pattern.*

volley, n.  
*I expected him to ... murder Jo and me with a volley from all his brass pistols at once.*

vote, v.  
*to be voted, to be declared by common consent*

Others ... spread the news through the woods ... where it would be ... voted the greatest wonder ... that ever happened.*
walk the floor

I have been walking the floor since eight o'clock waiting for you.

Mateel

walking-stick, n.

... he ... counted the days on the bricks of the hearth with his walking-stick ...

watcher, n., one who remains up at night with a dead person.

My mother lay in the front room, which was almost as cold and cheerless as the outside, for when the watchers went in ... they wore heavy wraps ...

water-mill, n.

Jo was often sent to a water-mill in the woods with a grist ...

wax-faced, a

Another assistant was Mrs. Tremaine, ... a wax-faced woman who apparently had no other duty to attend to than religion ...

way, n., shape, condition

She has good success with other people, but poor luck with my hands ... They baffle her skill. I suppose they are in a bad way.

Grandfather Erring
way, n. to get out of the way

You seem to be able to do everything; Jo, but I hope you will get out of the way, for these Jacks are said to be able to make everything except money.

Grandfather Erring

way, n.

The idea was not a bad one ..., and we soon had it under way.

weed, n.

I'll take you out into the field, and show you weeds higher than your head.

well-bred, a.

... he was very well-bred, and the only polished man I had ever known.

well-patronized, a., much used

... in his well-patronized Bible not a passage for pleasurable contemplation which intimated universal salvation was marked, if such exists.

well-to-do, a.

... he had no other hope of becoming well-to-do than that the lands which he was constantly buying become valuable ...
well-worded, a. p. 201.
I opened and read a well-worded note...

West (out West) p. 1.
Ours was the prairie district out West, where we had gone to grow up with the country.

... while waiting for his wheat or corn to be ground...

which, pron. p. 265.
(referring to "child")
This brought to mind again the love I bore the child, which had grown steadily in charm during the eight years since she was born...

whiffet, n., a small or insignificant person p. 84.
... they went away... calling him a little whiffet.

Big Adam

white-headed, a. p. 38.
... his family of white-headed boys were laughers like him...

whoop, n., shout p. 178.
... he... disappeared with a whoop.
wicked, n. p. 3.

... there were a great number of strokes on the bell ... which the pious said was an alarm to the wicked ... 

wild turkey, n. p. 61.

... she presumed that wild turkeys were plentiful


A broken ... wind-mill stood in the barn-yard ...

wisp, n., clothes brush p. 171.

... he occupied himself for a while in brushing the dust from his clothing with a small wisp he took from his pocket.

withe, n. p. 316.

... he lashed him with a keen hickory withe cut for the purpose ...

wonderful, a. p. 284.

A man who had been out to dig the grave came in and whispered to his wife that the ground was frozen to a wonderful depth ...
woollen mill, n.  

... we ... spent a great deal of money in sending committees away to make arrangements for a woollen mill ... .

workings, n., operation  

I worked for a time as a laborer in a mill to become familiar with its workings ... .

wrapping, n.  

I closed the door ... and when he removed the wrappings from his neck and face ... I saw that he was poorly clad and that he was old and broken.

wreck, n.  

... there was no change in his manner except that he made up with every old wreck who came to town ... .
yard, n. p. 67.

— with a gravel walk leading down to the gate, and a wide and neglected yard in front.
BIBLIOGRAPHY


