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DIALECT, OR ENGLISH?

May I ask the opinion of your critical readers on a question of English? The growth and prosperity of the dialect story has caused words unknown to public literature to appear in conservative periodicals. That seems to be accepted as necessary. But how far can weperc

on this go? Can we afford to admit those tramps in the world of words into the society of their betters on terms of equality? Can dialect and colloquial terms take the place of words which are acknowledged as standards in literature apart from the dialect story?

In an article in a recent number of 'Schofield's Magazine' I find the word "tote" in the following sentence: "The sellers of the unwholesome cakes called burpox, little buns, tote around their roulette machines which resemble five-fingerings." What is the correct to understand from the sentence? Is it supposed to be humorous? Or does the author, Mr. Schofield, mean to prejudice who perform a colloquial term as an orthodox English word? The "Century," "International," and "Standard" dictionaries give "tate" as a word of unknown origin, a colloquial Southern United States word, used especially among negroes. The "Century" adds that it is "in humorous use in the North and West." An article on the Southern States, the occurrence of the word word might be justified by a desire for what is known as local color. But what justification can there be for using in a description of a British town?

Pursuing "tote" a little further, we find two instances of the use of the word cited in the "Century" dictionary. One is in "Science," Vol. XL, p. 242, in a quay concerning human beings as pack-animals: "The first pack-animals were men and women... They toted caulked on the head..." In the "Century," "tote" has a definite meaning pertaining to the game, which the user seems to be aware of, or at least to express. The other citation is the "Century Dictionary," Vol. XL, p. 504, the passage being from a story by Miss Alice French (Octave Uzanne), the scene is an Arkansas camp where the conversation the word occurs is in the jargon of a Spanish mother-in-law, using the word in her own way. The two instances illustrate the legitimate use of the word, and leave Mr. Schofield in the dark as to why he finds the expression in a work of life in a place so remote from the home of the origin which it certainly is.

ANOTHER DISPUTED AMERICANISM.

(To the Editor of The DIAL.)

In a notice of a report made by Hamilton in 1791, a British reviewer wrote as follows: "We shall, at all times, with pleasure, receive from our friends in America reports which confirm our attachment to that people; but we shall freely be induced to adopt such reports than that page 521 of the same work, and to make as much use of the author's abilities as possible, for his merit. But, perhaps, it is an established Americanism, as in a recent issue of the British Office, Nov., 1889, Vol. XX. II., p. 169. E. L. Blandin has the preference of the geysering without knowing he has been better illustrated than by the passage for white, steadfast, doing the early part of this century British writers added an adjective to the word and fes

frequently qualified its use by the phrase "the Americans"