

New Words—There are several ideas of frequent occurrence which cannot be expressed in the English language; and yet, against the introduction of such new words, or new uses of old ones as would relieve this difficulty, there are some persons who are continually protesting. They think, if a man speaks without Johnson to back him, he commits a literary sin. These persons dare not supply the absolute deficiencies of our language, which perplex them every hour; so afraid are they of the ancient Saxons, who were long ago dead and buried. Of the relief we were likely to receive from the use of *being*, in relation to an action now going on, as, "being built," they would, if they could, deprive us, and yet they may search Johnson through, and they cannot find words, even by circumlocution, with which to express this common idea. *Progress*, used as a noun is another instance of the same thing. If any body will get us well out of the difficulty which results from the want of a really personal pronoun in the third person singular, without gender, he will be entitled to the thanks of all persons who love to talk. We say, "If any lady or gentleman shall buy this article—shall have it for five dollars." The blank may be filled with *he, she, it, or they*; or in any other manner; and yet the form of the expression will be too vulgar to be uttered. From age to age the speakers of English have been stumbling upon this impossibility of expressing the most common idea, and all the wit of the learned, with the rougher efforts of the ignorant, have not been able to relieve the difficulty. The learned, in fact, shun such spots in the language, as they would a pit in their path, but the less experienced are continually blundering on, though they can by no means get over, but must after all go back and go round. These difficulties are multiplying upon us, for the inventions of modern times are producing ideas absolutely and entirely new, for which of course there are no words. For instance, we are now pained continually in endeavoring to express the sailing of steam vessels. We say of a ship, she will sail, or did sail, but it is not yet determined how the same action of a steamer shall be announced. It will perhaps be agreed at last to say, that the steamer will paddle, or did paddle, at a certain time. We are for having all these blanks in the language filled, if any body has the genius to do it, for we cannot see why the present cultivated age has not as good a right to make words, if necessary, as our rude Saxon ancestors had. If they built the edifice, we ought certainly to have liberty to fill the chinks which they left open, or to make an addition if we have ideas which cannot possibly lodge in any of its present apartments. For ourselves, we should welcome a few new words to fill these spaces, as a phrenologist would the discovery of a new cluster of bumps. As to those crabbed literary men and women who will have no new words, when every thing else is new, we care not if they get an idea so stuck in their throats that they shall never be able to get it out.