SLIPS OF TONGUE AND PEN

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Slips of Tongue and Pen by J. H. Long

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J. H. LONG

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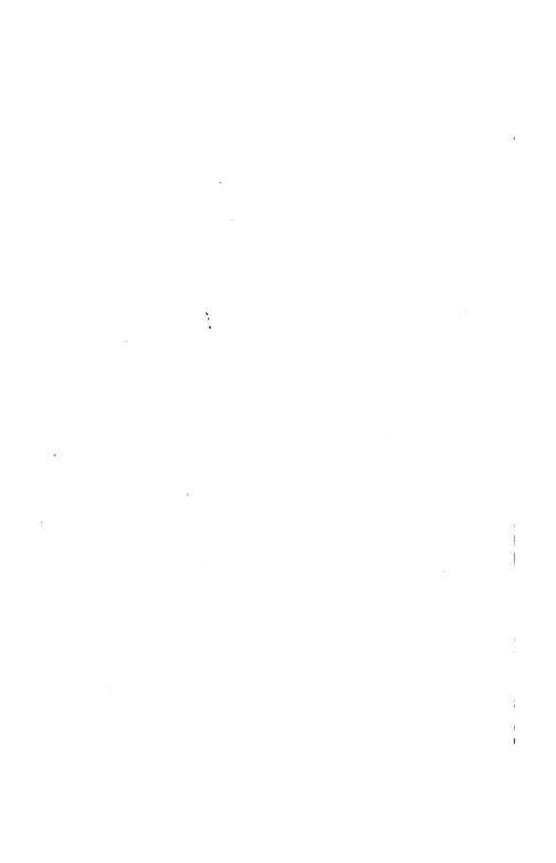
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CONTENTS:

T T	AUR.
COMMON ERRORS	1
GRAMMATICAL POINTS	32
GENERAL SUGGESTIONS UPON COMPOSITION	47
WORDS OFTEN CONFUSED, SYNONYMS, OPPOSITES	55
PREFER	80
OBJECTIONABLE WORDS AND PHRASES	84
notes on punctuation	88
INDEX	02



COMMON ERRORS

- Do not say, "The truth of that is apparent." [Use obvious or evident. Apparent or seeming is opposed to real; obvious or evident, to obscure.]
- Do not use anticipate for expect. [Anticipate means to reach before, to take before, to forestall, as: "I anticipated all his wishes."]
- Do not say, all of them, both of them, for they [or them] all, both, respectively.
- Do not spell with s analyse, paralyse, and other words derived from the Greek luo, lusis.
- Do not use ale, tea, sugar, &c., in the plural. [Instead of saying, "I have excellent teas, ales and sugars," say, "I have excellent tea, ale and sugar, of various qualities [or, at various prices, &c.]"
- Do not use accord for grant or give. [Accord, intransitive, means to agree or harmonize; transitive, it means to give or grant; but it carries with it the idea of great condescension, e.g.: "Pallas accords their vow." In ordinary prose it should be employed but rarely.]
- Do not use accident for wound or hurt. [Accident means misfortune or calamity, e.g.: "In the railway accident the man was badly injured."]

- Do not use aggravate for irritate or vex. [Aggravate means to render heavy or more difficult, e.g.: "The guilt was aggravated by the circumstances of the crime."]
- Do not use alternation for series or succession. [Alternation is reciprocal succession, e.g.: "The alternation of red and white balls on the string produced a very pretty effect."]
- Do not use alternative [in the plural] as equivalent to things to be chosen from or among. [Alternative is the choice itself, and should, properly speaking, be restricted to a choice between two things, e.g.: "My alternative was escape or death."]
- Do not use antiquarian [as a noun] for antiquary. [Antiquarian is an adjective.]
- Do not use abortive of acts. [It may be used of plans or attempts; but it is, at the best, an inelegant word.]
- Do not say, "The measures adopted by Congress for the quelling of the rebellion &c." Say, "The measures decided upon or taken &c." [Adopted is correctly employed in such a sentence as, "The report upon ways and means was adopted."]
- Do not say, "His antecodents are bad." Say, "His past history [or, his reputation] is bad."
- Do not use appreciate for value highly. [Appreciate is to value correctly or justly.] Say, therefore, "I prize [or value] that horse highly;" not, "I appreciate &c."

- Do not say, at auction but by auction.
- Do not say, "The wind was accompanied [or attended] by rain &c." Use with of things [unless personified]; by, of persons.
- Do not use anniversary of celebrations that are not yearly. Thus, not, a centennial anniversary; but, a centennial celebration, festival, &c.
- Do not use affable as an exact synonym for kindly or good-natured. [Affable is properly applied to the bearing of superiors towards inferiors, not to the bearing of equals towards equals.]
- Do not say, "Both are alike;" say, "They [or they two] are alike. Both denotes union; alike, separation.
- Do not say, "I am afraid it will rain." Say, "I fear it will rain."
- Do not say, "That admits of no doubt," [Leave out the of.]
- Do not say, "He alludes [or refers] to Mr. Smith," when you mean that he merely names Mr. Smith. Say, "He means Mr. Smith." [The real meaning of allude or refer to is to touch lightly upon, to call attention to, delicately or indirectly.]
- Do not say, "He went around the world." It should be,
 "He went round &c." [Around denotes rest—
 "The shelves are around the room;" round denotes motion.]