

**PUNCTUATION: WITH CHAPTERS
ON HYPHENIZATION,
CAPITALIZATION AND SPELLING**

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Punctuation: With Chapters on Hyphenization, Capitalization and Spelling by F. Horace Teall

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PUNCTUATION

*WITH CHAPTERS ON
HYPHENIZATION, CAPITALIZATION,
AND SPELLING*

BY

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PREFACE.

A SWEEPING criticism uttered by Gould Brown, in writing about capitalization, expresses only a little too strongly the feeling, almost of despair, arising from a search for a reasonable and consistent treatise on punctuation. After quoting from a certain grammarian a nonsensical assertion about proper names, Brown says: "Nor do the remarks of this author, or those of any other that I am acquainted with, remove any part of the difficulty." This could not truthfully be said about punctuation in general, for in many particulars all writers agree, so far as rules are concerned; but their works commonly show practice antagonistic to some of their own rules.

A search made by the author failed to dis-

close a work that is worthy of unqualified recommendation, for which he has often been asked. Some writings on punctuation are better than others, but the best seemed not yet to have been made; and this is why a new book on the subject was undertaken.

G. P. Quackenbos, in his "Advanced Course of Composition and Rhetoric," says, truly: "Punctuation is entirely independent of elocution. Its primary object is to bring out the writer's meaning, and so far only is it an aid to the reader. Rhetorical pauses occur as frequently where points are not found as where they are; and for a learner to depend for these on commas and semicolons would effectually prevent his becoming a good reader, just as the use of such marks wherever a cessation of the voice is required would completely obscure a writer's meaning. This may be seen by comparing a passage properly punctuated with the same passage punctuated as its delivery would require.

"PROPERLY PUNCTUATED. The people of the United States have justly supposed that the policy of protecting

PREFACE. ▼

their industry against foreign legislation and foreign industry was fully settled, not by a single act, but by repeated and deliberate acts of government, performed at distant and frequent intervals.

"PUNCTUATED FOR DELIVERY. The people of the United States, have justly supposed, that the policy, of protecting their industry, against foreign legislation and foreign industry, was fully settled; not, by a single act; but, by repeated and deliberate acts of government, performed, at distant and frequent intervals.

"From a paragraph punctuated like the last, little meaning can be gathered."

The objection against so-called rhetorical pointing is sound, even though we are not convinced that a good speaker would make all the pauses indicated. The example is a good one of twenty-five words in succession that will not properly admit a comma, although a speaker's voice would not be sustained all through their delivery without a break.

Conflict between rules and practice is found in every work on punctuation known to the author, and it seems to arise in each instance from an effort to particularize each and every possible class of expression under a

special rule. No one has ever succeeded in making such a system clear enough to work as an effectual guide in every possible case of doubt, and probably it can not be done.

The effort in this treatise has been to reduce the number of actual rules to the fewest possible, even where such treatment involved the rejection of many rules that are not only good, but are fully understood by every one who knows formally anything about punctuation. Principles have been considered as most important, and the rules given as such are really concise statements of principle, excepting a few that it seemed impossible to reduce to that basis, as in the case of the period. Much detail that other punctuators have subjected to special rules thus becomes herein mere exemplification under general rules.

The author's thanks are due to the Inland Printer Company of Chicago for kind permission to use in this book much matter that he wrote for their magazine, and which they first published.

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