

Webster's Dictionary

Webster's Dictionary

Report of the Committee on Literature...

The chairman of the Committee on Literature...

That the importance of placing a proper standard of orthography and language in the hands of the children at this time...

One successful application to the State on the part of a publisher will open the way for another...

In the case now presented to the Senate, the work proposed to be sent by authority into the twelve thousand school-houses...

It is assumed that Webster is an acknowledged standard of the language. High authority may be adduced to the contrary...

It is true, he is right in this last forbearance; but he is, as everywhere else, inconsistent.

William Cullen Bryant, whose name stands foremost among American poets, in his journal of June 20th, (New York Evening Post) says that "so far is Webster's Dictionary from meeting with the general acceptance of scholars and the community...

Washington Irving, in reply to a letter of inquiry addressed to him by the chairman of the Committee on Literature, says:—

Dear Sir:—Several months since, I received from Messrs. G. and C. Merriam, a copy of their quarto edition of Webster's Dictionary. In acknowledging the receipt of it, I expressly informed them that I did not make it my standard of orthography...

They had the distinguishedness to extract merely the part of my opinion which I have underlined, and to insert it among their puff and advertisements, as if I had given a general and unqualified approbation of the work.

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Mr. Bancroft, the historian, social improver...

Webster's career, says Edward S. Gould in a letter to the chairman of your committee...

Webster assumed the right to make and alter, in conformity with his own views, and assuming that superfluous letters were an orthographic evil, and that conformity between the spelling and the pronunciation of words was an orthographic desideratum...

Webster's rules are both arbitrary and capricious. He changes, for example, the into the, because he says words end in re, adopted from the French...

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English language and since many of them are...

It was a general remark, made by the language of Europe last year, that they never arrived so far...

Precisely because Webster is not a standard of English diction, ought we to withhold him from the children of the foreigner, who, recognizing on every page words and phrases of his own, will not fail to add others, and to hasten the corruption of our tongue...

For all these reasons, the undersigned respects that his judgment, the introduction of Webster's Dictionary, in the manner proposed by the bill now before the Legislature...

James W. Breckman, Chairman of the Committee on Literature, Senate Chamber, July, 1851.

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From the "Home Journal."

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WHERE IS "THE WEST?"

We published on Saturday a telegraphic dispatch from Kansas, which is interesting in the high degree...

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THE NEGRO CIVIL WAR.

No language can do justice to the civil war which proper execution of the duties of civil war which...

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NEW-COLORED WORKERS AND JOBBERS

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