

## C. A. Upchurch

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## ${ }^{\text {rm }}$

four Power-agremaeny Between the United States, Great
Britain, France and Japan

SAYS WORD IS MISPLACED
 Employment of Phrabo, "Th
Paychologleal Moment."
A correspondent of the London
Times sternly scolds all who are so Times sternly scolds all who are so
slipshod in their speech as to employ that most useful of phrases, "the prys. chological moment,", says the Living
Age. Asserting that by no possihle Age. Asserting that by no possihle
distortion of the Engish language can it legitmately be forced into its cur rent meaning of "the proper, or it-
ting, moment," he proceeds to give
a history of the ting, moment," he proceeds to give ly more interesting than his ditatribe
against its users. against its users.
"The psychological moment" is an The psychological moment is an
English translatoon of the French le
moment psychologique, which is, in moment psychologique, which is, in
its turn, a mistranslation of the Germat das psychologiscche moment.
which was used in the Neue PreussWhich was used in the Neue Preuss-
issche Zeitung in December, 1870
when the bombardment of Paris was when the bombardment of Paris was
about to begin. The German writer about to begin. The German writer
said: "The psychological momentum
(das said.
das psychologische moment must be me
allowed to play a prominent part. allowed to play a prominent part.
for without its co-operation there is for without its ce-operation there is
little to be hoped from the work of little to be hoped from
the artilery." Confusing the neuter German word das moment (which
means "momentum," and, as here used, means "momentum," and, as here used,
a dynamic part of the human mind a dynamic part of the human mind
urging it to action), with the mascuurging it to action), with the masco-
line der moment (which means mo-
ment in its ordinary English sense) ment in its ordinary English sense)
the French translated it le moment the French translated it le moment
psychologique, and with derisve gay-
ety incorporated it into the slang of psychologique, and with derisive gay-
ety incorporated it into the slang of
the hour. The French writer Francisque Sar-
cey, in his "Diary of the Siege of cey, in his "Diary of the Siege of
Paris," telll how the beleaguered Parisisins pluckily made game of their
enemy's phrase: enemy's phrase:
"You know how we laugh over that "You know how we laugh over that psschological moment.
has become all the rage. .. erybody says, T'm hungry. The psy-
chological moment for sitting down chological moment for sitting . When the first ball fell in the streets of Paris, everybody cried laughingly
Tiens! They must think the psychoTiens! They must think the ps
logical moment has arrived?" The facts, are voucheif for by the
new English dictionary, but for all the new English dictionary, but for all the
lexicographers may say, "the psy lexicographers may say, "the psy-
chological moment" is too firmly fixed in the usage to be withdrawn readily.


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