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Popular Errors

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POPULAR ERRORS.

1. That a contract, made on Sunday, is not binding.
2. That those who are loudest or most unceasing in their professions of regard for the People, are the People's truest friends.
3. That genuine courage is shown by vamping or bravado.
4. That it is consistent with the character of a gentleman, to smoke in a stage-coach.
5. That *green*, or unseasoned wood, is as good for making fires, as dry, or seasoned wood.
6. That, in order to exclude a child from a share in his father's estate, the father's will must give him something, however small; or mention him, in any manner.
7. That hot bread, or any bread less than twenty-four hours old, is wholesome.
8. That excessive familiarity is not dangerous to friendship. When I hear two men, whose intimacy does not date from childhood, calling each other "Tom," and "Nat," I look for a speedy, and perhaps a violent death to their friendship. True friendship is not only shown, but strengthened, by mutual respect.
9. That a lawyer, to succeed in his profession, is obliged to utter falsehoods.
10. That those who are constantly talking of the dishonesty of other people, are themselves honest.

11. That the citation of many books, or the use of learned words, is a sign of learning.

12. That persons who clamor for *practice* as better than *theory*, and are celebrated by themselves and their friends as practical men, are always more trustworthy than those whom they deride as "theorists." The former have usually no guide but their own (often narrow) experience: the latter sometimes have the lights gathered by a thousand clear and active minds, during ages of diligent and enlarged observation. A properly constructed theory is the methodized, the digested result, of what has been seen and done by hundreds of "practical men."

13. That a *first love* is necessarily purer, or stronger, than a second, or third, or fourth love.

14. That keeping the door open in cold weather, is conducive to health.

15. That other people have not as many, or as great causes of unhappiness, as ourselves.

16. That any simpleton will do for a legislator.

17. That a man, whom his neighbors would not trust with a hundred dollars of their own money, is fit to be trusted with the most important public interests.

18. That **EDUCATION** consists only in being sent to school; or in book learning.

19. That political consistency is shown by adhering constantly to the same men, through all their changes of conduct and opinion.

20. That it is **INCONSISTENCY**, to think with one party on some points, and with an opposite party on other points.

M.