who care not for the appearance of their
dress. They generally want their gar-
ments of a good material, and to fit them
in a becoming manner. Our ideas and
thoughts are also entitled to a becoming
dress; and it should be our pride to clothe
them with the most chaste and beauti-
ful language, that they may hang around
our person as jewels of unfading beauty;
even as "apples of gold in pictures of sil-
ver." We, however, may know the mean-
ing of thousands of the most beautiful
words in our language; yet if we can-
ot discover the legitimate relation they
bear to one another, and arrange them in
a sentence according to the laws of syn-
tax that govern them, we come as far
short of the knowledge of the science of
language as the architect of the knowl-
edge of his profession, if he understand
not where to place his timbers in a build-
ing, after they are furnished at his hand.

Grammar, well understood, enables
us to express our thoughts fully and
clearly; and also in a manner that will
defy the ingenuity of man to give our
words any other meaning than that
which we ourselves intended them to
convey.

In justification of a neglect to acquire
a grammatical knowledge of the English
language, some have argued that the
best grammarians differ in their views
of the science; and if the most enlight-
ened upon that subject cannot agree,
what evidence can be shown that there
is any particular good in it? It is
ture, that our best grammarians may
differ in their views touching some im-
material or technical points in the sci-
ence. But this cannot disturb or inter-
rupt the great channel or laws of lan-
guage. Allow me to prove this to you
right here. The Utah Library perhaps
contains the productions of some hun-
dreds of the best authors of which many
countries can boast. These authors all
wrote under different circumstances, at
different times, in different countries,
and upon different subjects; and very
probably no two of them could have been
brought to a perfect agreement upon ev-
ey point and principle of grammar. But
will the most learned gentleman in this
city go into that Library and point out
one grammatical error in the writings
of any of them? He may, perchance, do
it; yet I seriously doubt it. There may
be typographical errors found, which
may have produced indirect grammati-
cal ones; but a manifest grammatical er-
ror can hardly be found. This argument
ought to silence every cavil on the sub-
ject, in my opinion.

There is no science so universally ap-
plicable to practicable purposes as that
of grammar. Arithmetic, geography, as-
tronomy, botany, penmanship, chemistry,
and philosophy are highly profitable in
their respective places. But there is
no condition or circumstance in life in
which grammatical knowledge is not es-
sential, wherein mental action may be
involved. We cannot think, write, or
speak correctly upon any subject, with-
out a knowledge of the laws of language.
Some persons, who possess not this
knowledge, are vain and confident
enough to think that they can detect and
correct any error in language by the ear.
It is true that persons of a naturally re-
finned taste may, by carefully reading the
productions of good authors, and by con-
versing with the learned, acquire that
knowledge of language which will en-
able them to avoid those glaring errors
that are particularly offensive to the ear;
but there are other errors, equally gross,
that have not so harsh a sound, and can-
ot be detected without a knowledge of
the laws that are violated.

I can hold out no reasons or in-
ducements for you to believe that you
can acquire a knowledge of this science