There are several examples of what are called “eggcorns” in the paragraphs above. An eggcorn is the substitution of a word or phrase for words that sound similar. And the alternative wording usually makes just as much sense—Old Timers’ disease instead of Alzheimer’s, for example. So let’s nip this problem in the butt and quit using these half-asked expressions in our daily conversations.

Can you put together a list of the eggcorns in this column? Remember, the proof is in the putting.

ODES FROM THE ODD TOPICS SOCIETY

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Butler’s Odd Topics Society meets every now and then to discuss Odd Topics of any nature. Professor Baetzhold is the Poet Laureate Odd Topics Society.

Tradition Subverted

Tonight we had planned our Dodo Roast,
Whereat, ’midst joy and great good cheer,
We’d feast on dodo, then with heartfelt toasts,
Praise those who’ve delivered our talks this year.

But another event was to intervene
And partially alter our venue;
The Faculty Picnic entered the scene,
And Roast Dodo did not, thus, appear on our menu.

But though we regret the demise of our feast,
Let’s still ring the bells—à la Quasimodo;
For one of us there’s a blessing at least;
Mimi did not have to roast the Dodo.

The nibblies are great; now let’s bring on the toasts;
The beer and the wine still flow tonight!
So let us relax and bask in the glow
Of our usual great good gemütlichkeit.